ANNOUNCING THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF

ADVENTURE COMICS®

95¢
NO. 491
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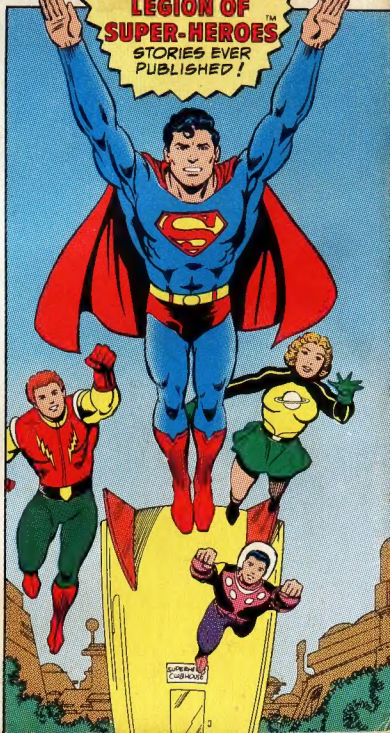
BRAND NEW! THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FAMILY IS... "THE CONFEDERATION OF HELL!"

THE FIRST TWO LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES™ STORIES EVER PUBLISHED!



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ANNOUNCING THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF

No. 491 September, 1982

*** Co-Editors: Dick Giordano and Carl Gafford ***

CONTENTS

SHAZAM battles "The Confederation of Hell" ..... Page 3
Superboy meets "The Legion of Super-Heroes" ..... Page 10
Aquaman confronts "The Sorcerers of the Sea" ..... Page 22
The Black Canary in solo action ..... Page 45
Sandman pitted against "The Man Who Couldn't Sleep" .. Page 53
Superboy becomes "The Prisoner of the Super-Heroes" ... Page 63
The Spectre wages "The War That Shook the Universe" ... Page 74
Paul Levitz tells us "The Story Behind the Stories" ..... Page 99

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SHAZAM!
ON A DISMAL PLAIN, SATAN HAS ASSEMBLED FOUR CHAMPIONS OF EVIL.
NOW THAT KID ETERNITY HAS JOINED FORCES WITH THE MARVEL FAMILY, IT HAS BECOME DOUBLY NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF THOSE DESPICABLE HEROES!
THAT IS WHY I HAVE CALLED ON YOU!
THE CONFEDERATION OF HELL
E. NELSON BRIDWELL -WRITER-
DON NEWTON -PENCILLER-
F. CHIARAMONTE -INKER-
PHILIP FELIX -LETTERER-
ADRIENNE ROY -COLORIST-
DAVE MANAK -EDITOR-

YOU WERE A PETTY THIEF NAMED STANLEY PRINTWHISTLE UNTIL I --AS LORD LUCIFER--GAVE YOU YOUR POWERS, IBAC!
IVAN THE TERRIBLE--TERROR
BORGIA--CUNNING
ATTILA--FIERCENESS
CALIGULA--CRUELTY
AND TO YOU, TIMOTHY KARNES, I AND MY FELLOW DEMONS GAVE ANOTHER SET OF POWERS WHEN YOU BECAME SABBAC!
SATAN--INVINCIBLE STRENGTH
ANY--INDESTRUCTIBLE BODY
BELIAL--EVIL WISDOM
BEELZEBUB--FLAME POWERS
ASMODEUS--EVIL COURAGE
CRAETEIS--POWER OF FLIGHT
AND YOU, MASTER MAN--I GAVE THE POWER TO CALL THE GREATEST VILLIANS TO YOUR AID--AND SO FIGHT KID ETERNITY!
I THANK YOU, GREAT ONE, FOR RELEASING ME FROM TORMENT THAT I MIGHT SERVE YOU ONCE AGAIN!
AND TO YOU, DORA KEANE, I GAVE THE CLOAK OF DARKNESS AND THE POWERS YOU USE AS DARKLING!
IF NOT FOR THE KID'S INTERFERENCE, I WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THE MARVELS!
2

AND WHERE ARE OUR HEROES ? AT THIS MOMENT, BILLY AND MARY BATSON ARE ON A HIKE WITH FREDDY FREEMAN AND HIS BROTHER KIT (BETTER KNOWN AS KID ETERNITY) -- ACCOMPANIED BY THE INVISIBLE MR. KEEPER ...
THIS IS A GREAT DAY TO BE OUT IN THE OPEN.
MMM... SMELL THAT COUNTRY AIR!
IT SURE IS A PLEASANT CHANGE FROM ALL THE CARBON MONOXIDE IN THE CITY!
AND I CAN KEEP UP, DESPITE MY CRUTCH, AS LONG AS WE DON'T GO TOO FAST!
PERSONALLY, I'D PREFER TO BE RESTING ON A NICE, FLUFFY CLOUD IN ETERNITY!
C'MON KEEP-- YOU'RE A SPIRIT!! IN MY MORTAL FORM, I'LL TIRE LONG BEFORE YOU DO!
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT SPENDING THE DAY BATTLING SOME MENACE!
SAY-- IT'S GETTING DARK AWFULLY EARLY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, KEEP-- BUT THIS IS UNCOMMONLY DARK!
HOLY MOLEY! I'VE ONLY KNOWN THIS KIND OF DARKNESS ONCE BEFORE!
RIGHT! WHEN WE MET DARKLING! SHE MUST BE BACK!
ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!

IT'S DARKLING ALL RIGHT!
HER DARKNESS IS SO DENSE NO LIGHT CAN PENETRATE IT EXCEPT THAT FROM THE HIGHEST REALM OF ETERNITY!
WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT THE SHAZAM LIGHTNING CAN'T GET THROUGH TO US!
TRUE--BUT MY POWER ISN'T AFFECTED!
ETERN--
MMMPH!
HA! GOT HIM!
KID! WHAT HAPPENED?
WE CAN'T SEE A THING! AND SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER!
BUT NOT AS MUCH AS IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM, EH, IBAC?
IBAC? HOLY MOLEY! DON'T TELL ME HE'S HERE, TOO!
ALL RIGHT, I WON'T! I'LL LET YOU GUESS!
I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANYWHERE! IF ONLY I COULD GET HELP FROM SHAZAM!

HA, HA! GO AHEAD! SHOUT YOUR WORD ALL YOU LIKE! MUCH GOOD IT WILL DO YOU!
DRAT! DON'T I KNOW IT!
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, MY ENEMY!
SABBAC! THEN YOU'RE IN ON THIS!
YES, WE'RE ALL HERE -- ME AND MASTER MAN AS WELL!
SO HERE YOU ARE, DARKLING!
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH OF IBAC AND SABBAC!
OWW!
NO, BUT I HAVE CUNNING -- AND YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE MY CLOAK!
OHH!
NOW WE HAVE YOU!
TO BE SAFE, I'LL HELP YOU THIS TIME!

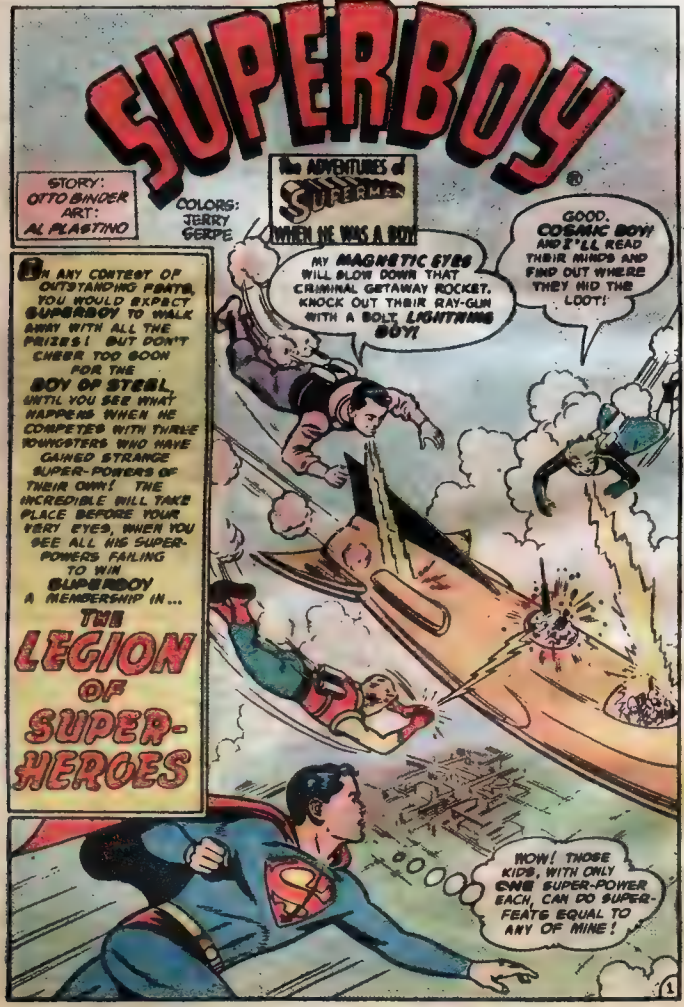
AND SO, WHEN KID ETERNITY RECOVERS, IT IS TO FIND HIMSELF ONE OF FOUR CAPTIVES...
WELCOME BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS, KID! KILLING ALL OF YOU WILL BE A DELICIOUS PLEASURE!
AND WELL DO IT SLOWLY! YOU'LL SUFFER A LOT BEFORE THE END.
IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS --BUT I RECOGNIZE MASTER MAN'S VOICE!
IF THERE WAS ONLY SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP! BUT I'M A SPIRIT, UNABLE TO MATERIALIZE; SO I CAN'T EVEN REMOVE THE KID'S GAG!
I JUST WISH WE COULD HAVE A LOOK AT YOU VILLIANS!
IT'S SO DARK WE CAN'T EVEN GET A GLIMPSE OF YOU!
WE AREN'T BOTHERED! SATAN HAS GIVEN US THE POWER TO SEE IN THE STYGIAN DARKNESS!
BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE LIGHT--
--FROM THE FLAMES I'LL USE TO TORTURE YOU! HA!
THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE!
OW! THAT BURNED! BUT I CAN SAY ETERNITY!
6

THAT DID THE TRICK! IN SPIRIT FORM, ROPES CAN'T HOLD ME! NOW TO HELP THE OTHERS!
ETERNITY!
IN ANSWER TO KID ETERNITY'S SUMMONS, ZEUS, KING OF THE GODS, APPEARS...
THANKS FOR CALLING ME, KID! I BROUGHT ALONG THREE SHAZAM BOLTS--
WHAM
"--ONE FOR BILLY--
"--ONE FOR MARY--
"--AND ONE FOR FREDDY!"
BAROOOOMMM!
ABOUT TIME WE GOT INTO ACTION!
I STILL CAN'T SEE, BUT WE'LL CATCH THOSE FIENDS!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, KID--BUT NICE GOING!

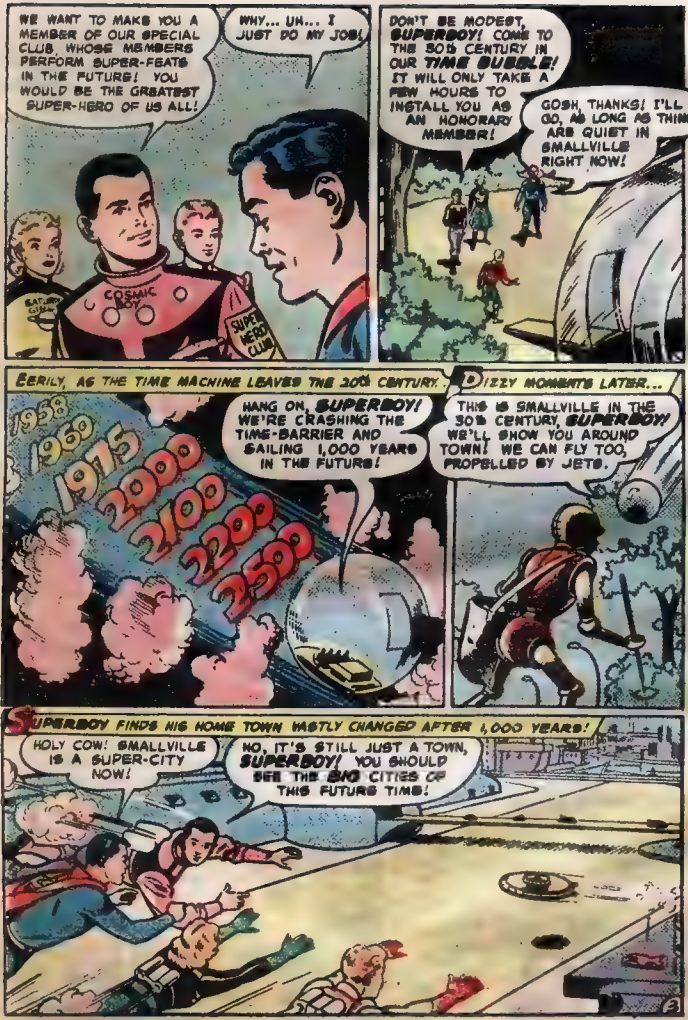
BLAST YOU, ALL-- UHH!
WAAP!
THANKS FOR TALKING, IBAC, SO I COULD FIND YOU AND DELIVER THIS!
BRAT! I'LL SIZZLE YOU!
YOU'RE GETTING DESPERATE, SABBAC! OTHERWISE YOU'D REMEMBER YOUR FLAMES CAN'T HARM ME--
AND THOSE FLAMES GAVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE YOU, DARKLING! ARE YOU GOING TO REMOVE THIS DARKNESS, OR--
OUCH! ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO IT!
--AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LIT YOURSELF UP SO I COULD SEE TO GIVE YOU A GOOD, HARD PUNCH!
THAT JUST ABOUT CLEARS THINGS UP!
I'LL BECOME SOLID AND SEND ZEUS BACK TO--- ETERNITY!
KRAAK

WRONG! YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET!
MASTER MAN! YOU'RE STILL FREE!
YES, AND READY TO SAV--STYGIA!
NOW YOU FACE FOUR GODS OF EVIL--
HOLY MOLEY!
-- EGYPTIAN SET -- PERSIAN AHRIMAN -- SLAVIC CERNOBOG -- AND AZTEC TEZCATLI-POCA!
9

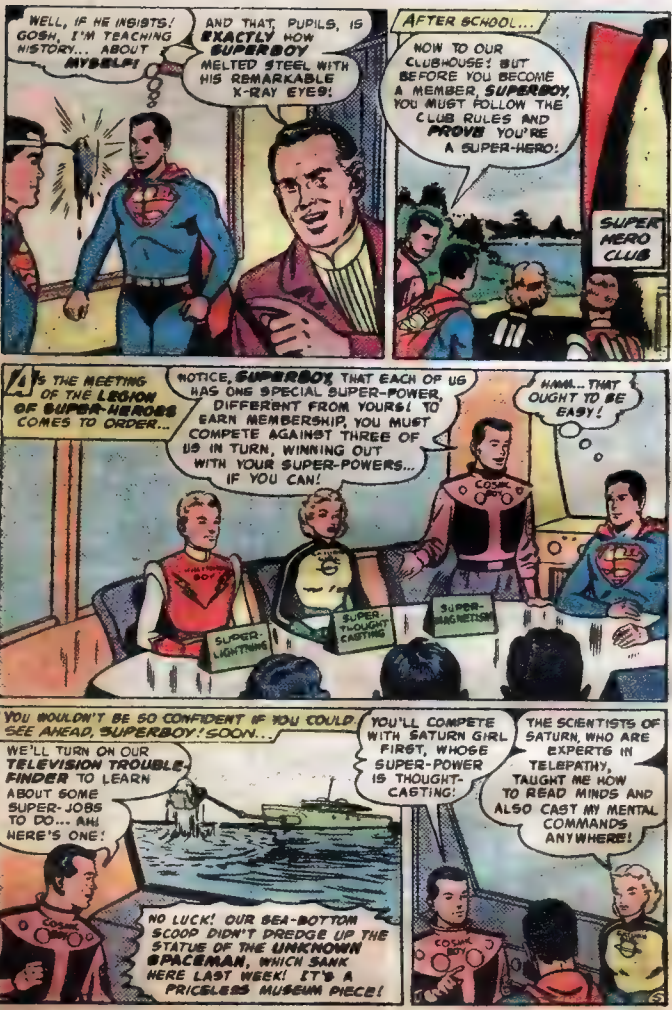
NEXT ISSUE: A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN [illegible] AND [illegible]!

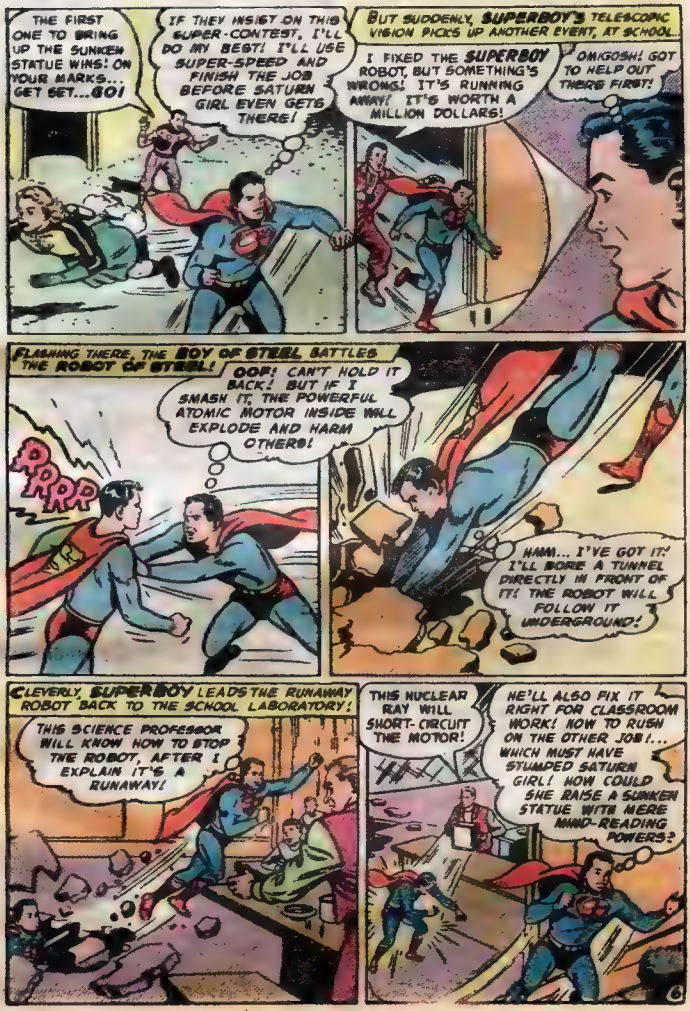

SUPERBOY
STORY: OTTO BINDER
ART: AL PLASTINO
COLORS: JERRY GERPE
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
IN ANY CONTEST OF OUTSTANDING FEATS, YOU WOULD EXPECT SUPERBOY TO WALK AWAY WITH ALL THE PRIZES! BUT DON'T CHEER TOO SOON FOR THE BOY OF STEEL, UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE COMPETES WITH THREE YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE GAINED STRANGE SUPER-POWERS OF THEIR OWN! THE INCREDIBLE WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, WHEN YOU SEE ALL HIS SUPER-POWERS FAILING TO WIN SUPERBOY A MEMBERSHIP IN...
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
MY MAGNETIC GIRL WILL BLOW DOWN THAT CRIMINAL GETAWAY ROCKET, KNOCK OUT THEIR RAY-GUN WITH A BOLT, LIGHTNING BOY!
GOOD. COSMIC BOY! AND I'LL READ THEIR MINDS AND FIND OUT WHERE THEY HID THE LOOT!
WOW! THOSE KIDS, WITH ONLY ONE SUPER-POWER EACH, CAN DO SUPER-FEATS EQUAL TO ANY OF MINE!
1

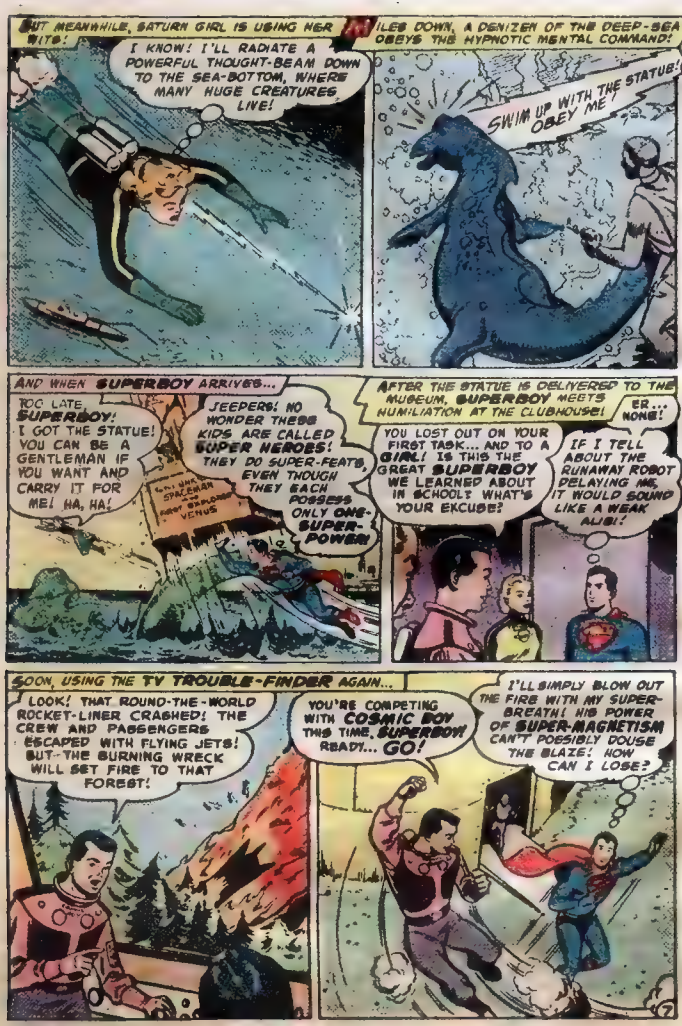
IN SMALLVILLE ONE DAY, CLARK KENT RECEIVES A SUDDEN SHOCK!
HELLO THERE, SUPERBOY!
YOU... ER... THINK I'M SUPERBOY? THAT IS A GOOD ONE! HA, HA!
BUT AT HOME, CLARK DOES DOFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS TO REVEAL HIMSELF AS THE FAMED BOY HERO!
THAT BOY IS HERE IN TOWN! GOSH, DID HE SOMEHOW FIND OUT MY SECRET IDENTITY? OH, HE MUST HAVE BEEN JOKING! I'LL FORGET IT AND GO ON PATROL!
ON PATROL, SUPERBOY CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EARS WHEN...
HI, CLARK KENT!
OMIGOSH! ANOTHER BOY SEEMS TO KNOW MY SECRET! I--I'LL PRETEND TO IGNORE HIM AS IF HE'S WRONG!
LATER, SUPERBOY IS REALLY OVERWHELMED!
SUPERBOY! GIVE MY REGARDS TO MR. AND MRS. KENT, YOUR FOSTER PARENTS, WHEN YOU RETURN HOME!
GREAT GUNS! A GIRL, TOO! DOES EVERYBODY KNOW THE TRUTH NOW?
BUT AS THE TWO BOYS JOIN THE GIRL...
DON'T WORRY, SUPERBOY! ONLY WE THREE KNOW YOUR SECRET, AND WE TOOK CARE THAT NOBODY ELSE WAS WITHIN EARSHOT BEFORE! YOU'LL SOON SEE WHY WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU! WE ALSO HAVE "SECRET IDENTITIES"!
YOU SEE, WE'RE FROM THE FUTURE! NATURALLY, WE KNOW YOUR LIFE STORY FROM HISTORICAL RECORDS! WE WORE 20th-CENTURY CLOTHES TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN WITH YOU!
SO THAT'S IT! WHAT A RELIEF THAT MY SECRET IDENTITY IS STILL SAFE HERE IN SMALLVILLE!


WE WANT TO MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF OUR SPECIAL CLUB, WHOSE MEMBERS PERFORM SUPER-FEATS IN THE FUTURE! YOU WOULD BE THE GREATEST SUPER-HERO OF US ALL!
WHY... UH... I JUST DO MY JOB!
COSMIC BOY
SUPER HERO CLUB
DON'T BE MODEST, SUPERBOY! COME TO THE 30th CENTURY IN OUR TIME BUBBLE! IT WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW HOURS TO INSTALL YOU AS AN HONORARY MEMBER!
GOSH, THANKS! I'LL GO, AS LONG AS THINGS ARE QUIET IN SMALLVILLE RIGHT NOW!
EERILY, AS THE TIME MACHINE LEAVES THE 20th CENTURY...
1958
1960
1975
2000
2100
2200
2500
HANG ON, SUPERBOY! WE'RE CRASHING THE TIME-BARRIER AND SAILING 1,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
DIZZY MOMENTS LATER...
THIS IS SMALLVILLE IN THE 30th CENTURY, SUPERBOY! WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND TOWN! WE CAN FLY TOO, PROPELLED BY JETS.
SUPERBOY FINDS HIS HOME TOWN VASTLY CHANGED AFTER 1,000 YEARS!
HOLY COW! SMALLVILLE IS A SUPER-CITY NOW!
NO, IT'S STILL JUST A TOWN, SUPERBOY! YOU SHOULD SEE THE BIG CITIES OF THIS FUTURE TIME!

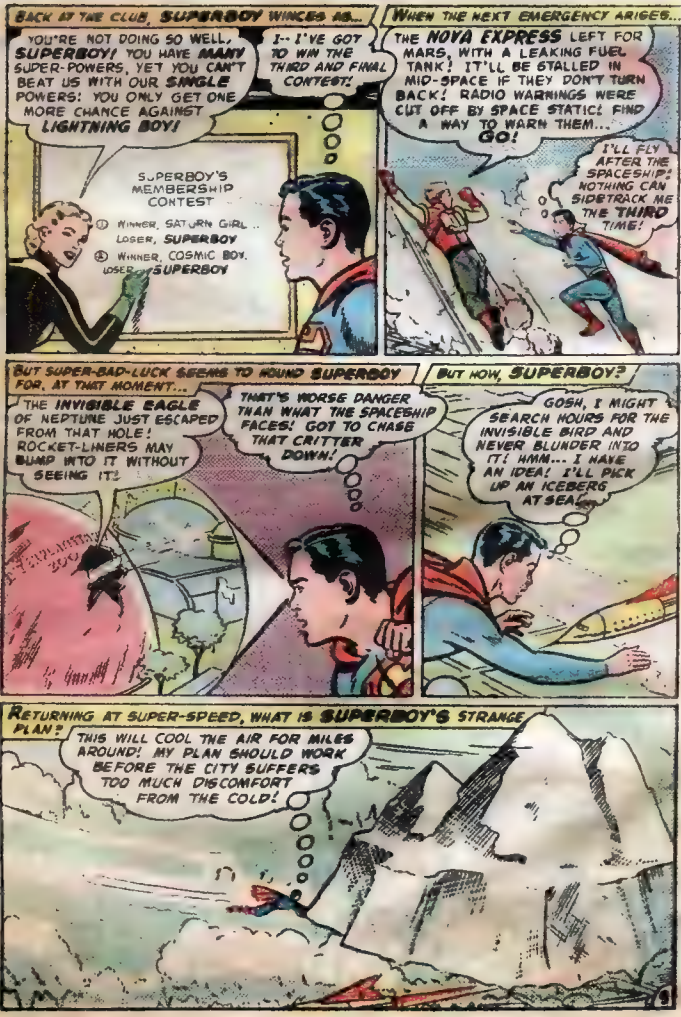
AS THEY TOUR THE WONDERS OF 30th-CENTURY SMALLVILLE...
GOSH! YOU HAVE SPACE SIGHT-SEEING TRIPS!
EARTH SATELLITE TOUR AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 MINUTES
THE JULES VERNE
WHEN THEY PAUSE FOR REFRESHMENTS...
HOW THE OLD ICE-CREAM PARLOR HAS CHANGED! THIS MARTIAN ICE-CREAM IS... ER... OUT-OF-THIS WORLD! YUMMM!
NINE DELICIOUS FLAVORS FROM NINE PLANETS
BUT ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED IN SMALLVILLE, GLADDENING SUPERBOY'S HEART...
MY HOME WITH DAD AND MOM KENT IS PRESERVED AS A SHRINE! WHAT AN HONOR... (CHOKE!)
THAT'S NOTHING, SUPERBOY! COME TO SCHOOL WITH US AND SEE WHAT IS TAUGHT IN HISTORY CLASS!
ROBOT FA
ANCIENT HOME OF LUREX (SUPERBOY) NOW IN 30th CENTURY
AT SCHOOL...
IN THE 20th-CENTURY, PUPILS, SUPERBOY WAS NOTED FOR HIS AMAZING SUPER-STRENGTH!
HMM... THE TEACHER HAS A SUPERBOY ROBOT TO DEMONSTRATE MY SUPER-POWERS!
100 TONS
SUDDENLY...
THE ROBOT WENT DEAD! I CAN'T SHOW HOW SUPERBOY USED THE HEAT OF HIS X-RAY VISION TO MELT STEEL!
WAIT, TEACHER!
HERE'S SUPERBOY IN PERSON! WE BROUGHT HIM INTO OUR TIME FROM THE 20th CENTURY!
COSMIC BOY
HOW FORTUNATE! PLEASE FINISH THE DEMONSTRATION, SUPERBOY... SO MY CLASS DOESN'T FALL BEHIND IN HISTORY STUDIES!
4


WELL, IF HE INSISTS! GOSH, I'M TEACHING HISTORY... ABOUT MYSELF!
AND THAT, PUPILS, IS EXACTLY HOW SUPERBOY MELTED STEEL WITH HIS REMARKABLE X-RAY EYES!
AFTER SCHOOL...
NOW TO OUR CLUBHOUSE! BUT BEFORE YOU BECOME A MEMBER, SUPERBOY, YOU MUST FOLLOW THE CLUB RULES AND PROVE YOU'RE A SUPER-HERO!
SUPER HERO CLUB
AS THE MEETING OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES COMES TO ORDER...
NOTICE, SUPERBOY, THAT EACH OF US HAS ONE SPECIAL SUPER-POWER, DIFFERENT FROM YOURS! TO EARN MEMBERSHIP, YOU MUST COMPETE AGAINST THREE OF US IN TURN, WINNING OUT WITH YOUR SUPER-POWERS... IF YOU CAN!
HMM... THAT OUGHT TO BE EASY!
COSMIC BOY
SUPER-LIGHTNING
SUPER-THOUGHT CASTING
SUPER-MAGNETISM
YOU WOULDN'T BE SO CONFIDENT IF YOU COULD SEE AHEAD, SUPERBOY! SOON...
WE'LL TURN ON OUR TELEVISION TROUBLE-FINDER TO LEARN ABOUT SOME SUPER-JOBS TO DO... AH! HERE'S ONE!
NO LUCK! OUR SEA-BOTTOM SCOOP DIDN'T PREDGE UP THE STATUE OF THE UNKNOWN SPACEMAN, WHICH SANK HERE LAST WEEK! IT'S A PRICELESS MUSEUM PIECE!
YOU'LL COMPETE WITH SATURN GIRL FIRST, WHOSE SUPER-POWER IS THOUGHT-CASTING!
THE SCIENTISTS OF SATURN, WHO ARE EXPERTS IN TELEPATHY, TAUGHT ME HOW TO READ MINDS AND ALSO CAST MY MENTAL COMMANDS ANYWHERE!
COSMIC BOY


THE FIRST ONE TO BRING UP THE SUNKEN STATUE WINS! ON YOUR MARKS... GET SET...GO!
IF THEY INSIST ON THIS SUPER-CONTEST, I'LL DO MY BEST! I'LL USE SUPER-SPEED AND FINISH THE JOB BEFORE SATURN GIRL EVEN GETS THERE!
BUT SUDDENLY, SUPERBOY'S TELESCOPIC VISION PICKS UP ANOTHER EVENT, AT SCHOOL
I FIXED THE SUPERBOY ROBOT, BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG! IT'S RUNNING AWAY! IT'S WORTH A MILLION DOLLARS!
OMIGOSH! GOT TO HELP OUT THERE FIRST!
FLASHING THERE, THE BOY OF STEEL BATTLES THE ROBOT OF STEEL!
OOP! CAN'T HOLD IT BACK! BUT IF I SMASH IT, THE POWERFUL ATOMIC MOTOR INSIDE WILL EXPLODE AND HARM OTHERS!
DRRDD RRR
HMM... I'VE GOT IT! I'LL BORE A TUNNEL DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF IT! THE ROBOT WILL FOLLOW IT UNDERGROUND!
CLEVERLY, SUPERBOY LEADS THE RUNAWAY ROBOT BACK TO THE SCHOOL LABORATORY!
THIS SCIENCE PROFESSOR WILL KNOW HOW TO STOP THE ROBOT, AFTER I EXPLAIN IT'S A RUNAWAY!
THIS NUCLEAR RAY WILL SHORT-CIRCUIT THE MOTOR!
HE'LL ALSO FIX IT RIGHT FOR CLASSROOM WORK! NOW TO RUSH ON THE OTHER JOB!... WHICH MUST HAVE STUMPED SATURN GIRL! HOW COULD SHE RAISE A SUNKEN STATUE WITH MERE MIND-READING POWERS?

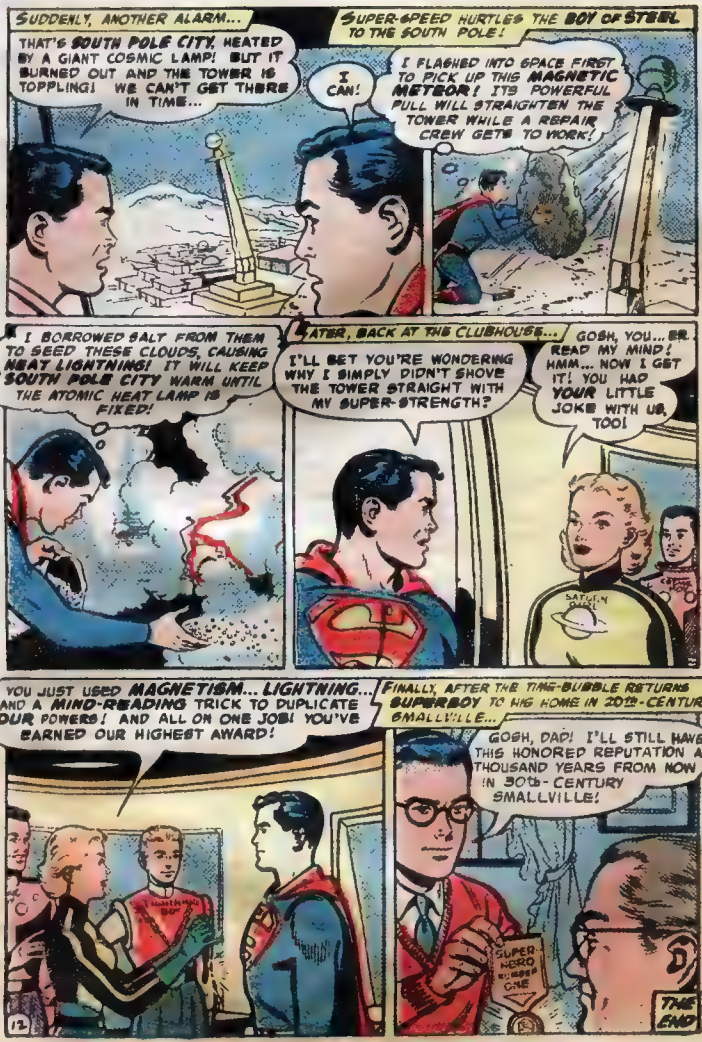

BUT MEANWHILE, SATURN GIRL IS USING HER MIND!
I KNOW! I'LL RADIATE A POWERFUL THOUGHT-BEAM DOWN TO THE SEA-BOTTOM, WHERE MANY HUGE CREATURES LIVE!
...ILES DOWN, A DENIZEN OF THE DEEP-SEA OBEYS THE HYPNOTIC MENTAL COMMAND!
SWIM UP WITH THE STATUE! OBEY ME!
AND WHEN SUPERBOY ARRIVES...
TOO LATE, SUPERBOY! I GOT THE STATUE! YOU CAN BE A GENTLEMAN IF YOU WANT AND CARRY IT FOR ME! HA, HA!
JEEPERS! NO WONDER THESE KIDS ARE CALLED SUPER HEROES! THEY DO SUPER-FEATS, EVEN THOUGH THEY EACH POSSESS ONLY ONE-SUPER-POWER!
AFTER THE STATUE IS DELIVERED TO THE MUSEUM, SUPERBOY MEETS HUMILIATION AT THE CLUBHOUSE!
YOU LOST OUT ON YOUR FIRST TASK... AND TO A GIRL! IS THIS THE GREAT SUPERBOY WE LEARNED ABOUT IN SCHOOL? WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
ER... NONE!
IF I TELL ABOUT THE RUNAWAY ROBOT DELAYING ME, IT WOULD SOUND LIKE A WEAK ALIBI!
SOON, USING THE TV TROUBLE-FINDER AGAIN...
LOOK! THAT ROUND-THE-WORLD ROCKET-LINER CRASHED! THE CREW AND PASSENGERS ESCAPED WITH FLYING JETS! BUT-THE BURNING WRECK WILL SET FIRE TO THAT FOREST!
YOU'RE COMPETING WITH COSMIC BOY THIS TIME, SUPERBOY! READY... GO!
I'LL SIMPLY BLOW OUT THE FIRE WITH MY SUPER-BREATH! HIS POWER OF SUPER-MAGNETISM CAN'T POSSIBLY DOUSE THE BLAZE! HOW CAN I LOSE?

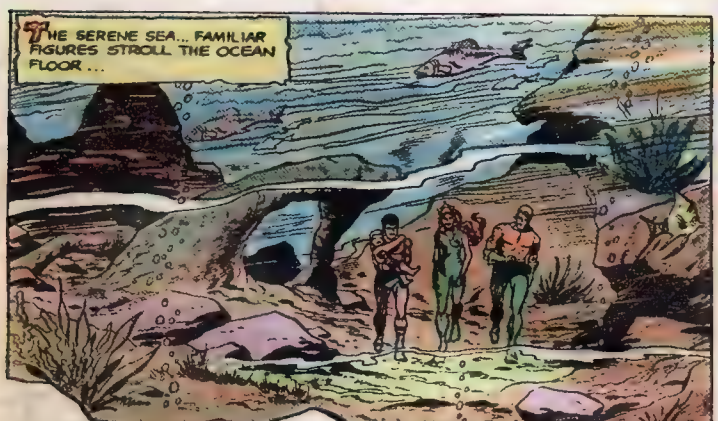
VERY EASILY, SUPERBOY! FOR FATE AGAIN BRINGS UP ANOTHER DANGER SEEN ONLY BY YOUR TELESCOPIC VISION!
YIPES! THAT EARTH-SATELLITE IS FALLING FROM ITS ORBIT! IT MIGHT HIT A CITY BELOW, LIKE A FLAMING METEOR!
GOT IT! HMM... IT'S AN OLD 20TH CENTURY SATELLITE THAT WAS POPULARLY CALLED A "BASKETBALL"!
SO WHY NOT MAKE A "BASKET" WITH IT... IN THAT VOLCANO CRATER! IT'S USELESS HERE IN THE FUTURE, WHERE THEY HAVE SUPER-SATELLITES! NOW I'LL RUSH TO THE FOREST FIRE TO HELP POOR COSMIC BOY!
COSMIC BOY DOESN'T NEED ANY HELP SUPERBOY!
SPECIAL SERUMS GAVE ME MAGNETIC EYES OR SUPER-POWER! I'LL PULL A FLOCK OF IRON METEORS DOWN FROM SPACE, TO FILL THAT LAKE NEAR THE FIRE!
ARRIVING, SUPERBOY IS AGAIN THWARTED!
I WON'T TELL HOW I SAVED THE CITY FROM THE FALLING SATELLITE! AGAIN, IT'LL BE THOUGHT I'M USING AN ALIBI!
THE LAKE OVERFLOWED AND FLOODED THE FOREST, PUTTING OUT THE FIRE! WHERE WERE YOU, SUPERBOY? HA, HA!


BACK AT THE CLUB, SUPERBOY WINCES AS...
YOU'RE NOT DOING SO WELL, SUPERBOY! YOU HAVE MANY SUPER-POWERS, YET YOU CAN'T BEAT US WITH OUR SINGLE POWERS! YOU ONLY GET ONE MORE CHANCE AGAINST LIGHTNING BOY!
I-- I'VE GOT TO WIN THE THIRD AND FINAL CONTEST!
SUPERBOY'S MEMBERSHIP CONTEST
① WINNER, SATURN GIRL.. LOSER, SUPERBOY
② WINNER, COSMIC BOY. LOSER, SUPERBOY
WHEN THE NEXT EMERGENCY ARISES...
THE NOVA EXPRESS LEFT FOR MARS, WITH A LEAKING FUEL TANK! IT'LL BE STALLED IN MID-SPACE IF THEY DON'T TURN BACK! RADIO WARNINGS WERE CUT OFF BY SPACE STATIC! FIND A WAY TO WARN THEM... GO!
I'LL FLY AFTER THE SPACESHIP! NOTHING CAN SIDETRACK ME THE THIRD TIME!
BUT SUPER-BAD-LUCK SEEMS TO HOUND SUPERBOY FOR, AT THAT MOMENT...
THE INVISIBLE EAGLE OF NEPTUNE JUST ESCAPED FROM THAT HOLE! ROCKET-LINERS MAY BUMP INTO IT WITHOUT SEEING IT!
THAT'S WORSE DANGER THAN WHAT THE SPACESHIP FACES! GOT TO CHASE THAT CRITTER DOWN!
BUT NOW, SUPERBOY?
GOSH, I MIGHT SEARCH HOURS FOR THE INVISIBLE BIRD AND NEVER BLUNDER INTO IT! HMM... I HAVE AN IDEA! I'LL PICK UP AN ICEBERG AT SEA...
RETURNING AT SUPER-SPEED, WHAT IS SUPERBOY'S STRANGE PLAN?
THIS WILL COOL THE AIR FOR MILES AROUND! MY PLAN SHOULD WORK BEFORE THE CITY SUFFERS TOO MUCH DISCOMFORT FROM THE COLD!

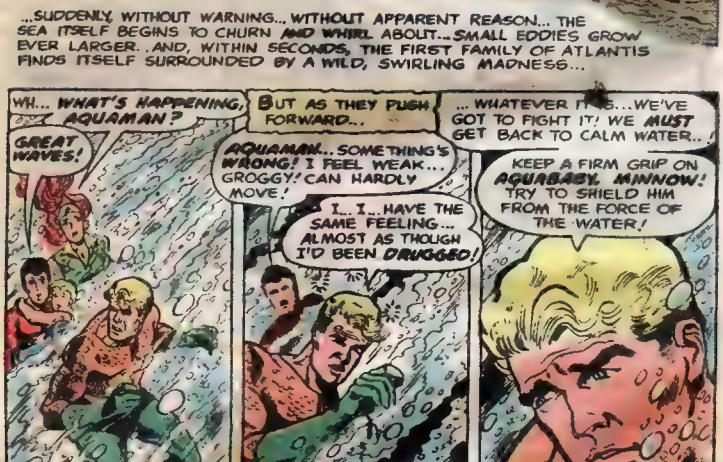
SHORTLY, SUPERBOY HURLS THE ICEBERG OUT TO SEA AND...
AH, IT WORKED! FROST FORMED ON THE EAGLE, MAKING IT VISIBLE... JUST AS FROST COVERS A TRANSPARENT WINDOW PANE! NOW I CAN CAPTURE IT AND RETURN IT TO THE INTERPLANETARY ZOO!
MEANWHILE, LIGHTNING BOY HAS SOLVED HIS TASK...
MY HANDS ARE LIKE THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POLES OF A BATTERY! EACH TIME I CLAP THEM TOGETHER, A SUPER-LIGHTNING FLASH LEAPS FORTH!
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM

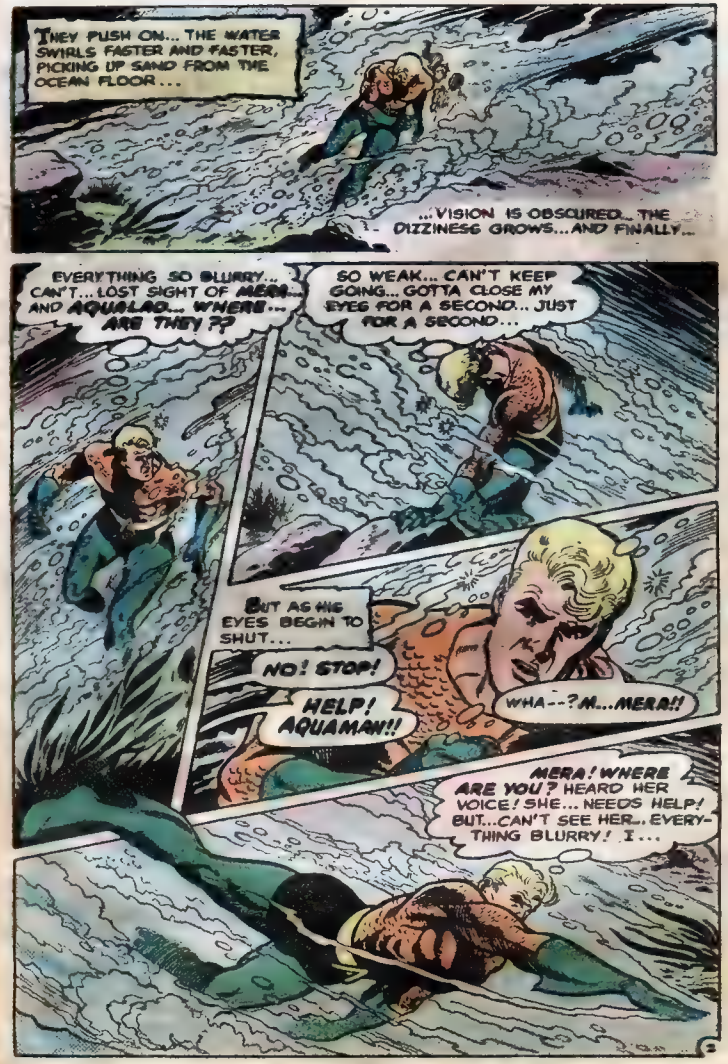
BUT SUPERBOY'S BRAVE SMILE COVERS A BROKEN HEART:
HOW WILL I EVER TELL THEM BACK IN SMALLVILLE THAT THEIR "SUPER-HERO" FLUNKED OUT OF THE SUPER-HERO CLUB?... (SOB!)
WAIT, SUPERBOY! COME BACK!
BUT-- BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'VE BEEN REJECTED...
NO, YOU'RE A MEMBER, SUPERBOY! WE GAVE YOU A BAD TIME ONLY AS YOUR INITIATION! WE DELIBERATELY DECOYED YOU ELSEWHERE DURING EACH CONTEST! FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU AND I FIRST RACED AWAY ON OUR JOB...
SATURN GIRL
"... I SECRETLY BEAMED A TELEPATHIC COMMAND INTO THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN OF THE ROBOT SUPERBOY AT SCHOOL..."
ATTENTION, SUPERBOY ROBOT! I COMMAND YOU---
...TO BECOME A RUNAWAY!
"AND I, COSMIC BOY, USED MY MAGNETIC EYES ON THE WAY TO THE FIRE..."
MY MAGNETIC-VISION WILL PULL THAT OLD SATELLITE OUT OF ITS ORBIT! I'LL MAKE SURE IT FALLS HARMLESSLY AT SEA IF SUPERBOY FAILS TO STOP IT!
"AND IT WAS EASY FOR ME, LIGHTNING BOY, TO SEND A SUPER-FLASH TOWARD THE INTERPLANETARY ZOO..."
THIS WILL BURST A HOLE IN THE ZOO'S PLASTIC DOME, LETTING THE INVISIBLE EAGLE ESCAPE! SATURN GIRL CAN ALWAYS USE HER MENTAL COMMANDS TO MAKE IT RETURN IF SUPERBOY FAILS!
IT WAS ONLY YOUR INITIATION, AND IT PROVED YOU'RE A SUPER-GOOD SPORT, TAKING IT ALL WITH A SMILE!
HOORAY FOR SUPERBOY, OUR NEW MEMBER!


SUDDENLY, ANOTHER ALARM...
THAT'S SOUTH POLE CITY, HEATED BY A GIANT COSMIC LAMP! BUT IT BURNED OUT AND THE TOWER IS TOPPLING! WE CAN'T GET THERE IN TIME...
I CAN!
SUPER-SPEED HURTLES THE BOY OF STEEL TO THE SOUTH POLE!
I FLASHED INTO SPACE FIRST TO PICK UP THIS MAGNETIC METEOR! ITS POWERFUL PULL WILL STRAIGHTEN THE TOWER WHILE A REPAIR CREW GETS TO WORK!
I BORROWED SALT FROM THEM TO SEED THESE CLOUDS, CAUSING HEAT LIGHTNING! IT WILL KEEP SOUTH POLE CITY WARM UNTIL THE ATOMIC HEAT LAMP IS FIXED!
LATER, BACK AT THE CLUBHOUSE...
I'LL BET YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I SIMPLY DIDN'T SHOVE THE TOWER STRAIGHT WITH MY SUPER-STRENGTH?
GOSH, YOU... ER, READ MY MIND! HMM... NOW I GET IT! YOU HAD YOUR LITTLE JOKE WITH US, TOO!
SATURN GIRL
YOU JUST USED MAGNETISM... LIGHTNING... AND A MIND-READING TRICK TO DUPLICATE OUR POWERS! AND ALL ON ONE JOB! YOU'VE EARNED OUR HIGHEST AWARD!
LIGHTNING BOY
FINALLY, AFTER THE TIME-BUBBLE RETURNS SUPERBOY TO HIS HOME IN 20TH-CENTURY SMALLVILLE...
GOSH, DAD! I'LL STILL HAVE THIS HONORED REPUTATION A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW IN 30th-CENTURY SMALLVILLE!
SUPER-HERO BIOGRAPHY ONE
THE END

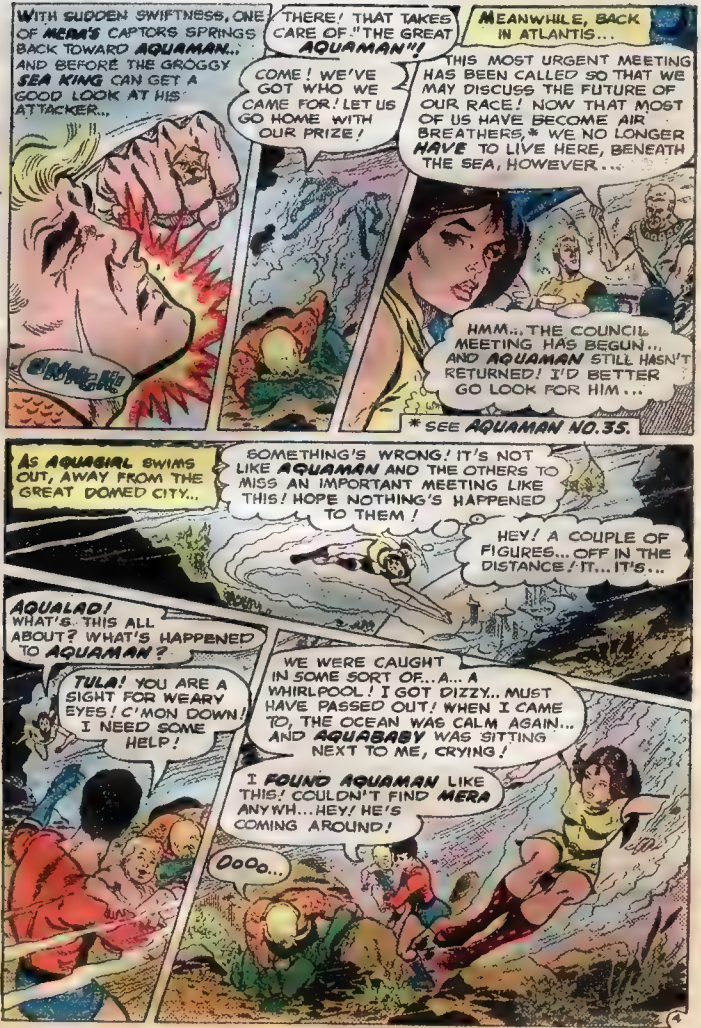


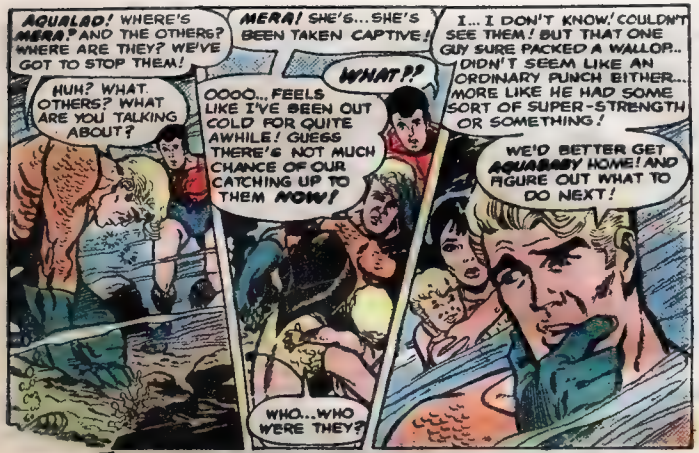
...SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING... WITHOUT APPARENT REASON... THE SEA ITSELF BEGINS TO CHURN AND WHIRL ABOUT... SMALL EDDIES GROW EVER LARGER. AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THE FIRST FAMILY OF ATLANTIS FINDS ITSELF SURROUNDED BY A WILD, SWIRLING MADNESS...


WH... WHAT'S HAPPENING, AQUAMAN?
GREAT WAVES!
I DON'T KNOW, MERA! FOLLOW ME! IT SEEMS... CALM UP AHEAD! ...IF WE CAN JUST...
BUT AS THEY PUSH FORWARD...
AQUAMAN... SOMETHING'S WRONG! I FEEL WEAK... GROGGY! CAN HARDLY MOVE!
I... I... HAVE THE SAME FEELING... ALMOST AS THOUGH I'D BEEN DRUGGED!
... WHATEVER IT IS... WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT IT! WE MUST GET BACK TO CALM WATER...
KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON AQUABABY, MINNOW! TRY TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE FORCE OF THE WATER!

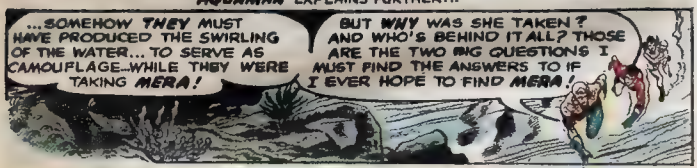

THEY PUSH ON... THE WATER SWIRLS FASTER AND FASTER, PICKING UP SAND FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR...
...VISION IS OBSCURED... THE DIZZINESS GROWS... AND FINALLY...
EVERYTHING SO BLURRY... CAN'T... LOST SIGHT OF MERA... AND AQUALAD... WHERE... ARE THEY??
SO WEAK... CAN'T KEEP GOING... GOTTA CLOSE MY EYES FOR A SECOND... JUST FOR A SECOND...
BUT AS HIS EYES BEGIN TO SHUT...
NO! STOP!
HELP! AQUAMAN!!
WHA--?M...MERA!!
MERA! WHERE ARE YOU? HEARD HER VOICE! SHE... NEEDS HELP! BUT...CAN'T SEE HER... EVERYTHING BLURRY! I...

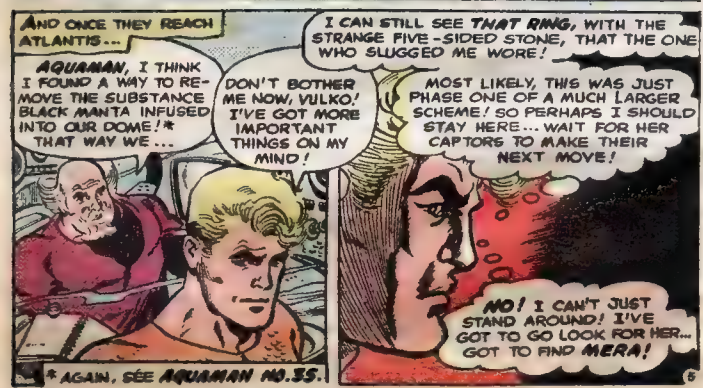
WAIT! UP AHEAD! IT'S...
YES...IT'S MERA! SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING'S GOT HER... DRAGGING HER AWAY!
LOOK! HE'S SEEN US!
IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE! HE CAN'T STOP US NOW! NO ONE CAN!
AQUAMAN
SCRIPT: STEVE SKEATES
ART: JIM APARO
EDITED BY: DICK GIORDANO
AND SO IT BEGINS...ONE OF THE STRANGEST OF UNDERWATER ADVENTURES...AN ADVENTURE THAT WILL LEAD AQUAMAN FAR FROM ATLANTIS...TO THE LAND WHERE HE WILL MEET THE
"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"
...AND THEIR QUEEN!
COLORS: BOB LE ROSE
3


WITH SUDDEN SWIFTNESS, ONE OF MERA'S CAPTORS SPRINGS BACK TOWARD AQUAMAN.. AND BEFORE THE GROGGY SEA KING CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIS ATTACKER...
THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF "THE GREAT AQUAMAN"!
COME! WE'VE GOT WHO WE CAME FOR! LET US GO HOME WITH OUR PRIZE!
MEANWHILE, BACK IN ATLANTIS...
THIS MOST URGENT MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF OUR RACE! NOW THAT MOST OF US HAVE BECOME AIR BREATHERS,* WE NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE HERE, BENEATH THE SEA, HOWEVER...
HMM.. THE COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEGUN... AND AQUAMAN STILL HASN'T RETURNED! I'D BETTER GO LOOK FOR HIM...
* SEE AQUAMAN NO. 35.
AS AQUAGIRL SWIMS OUT, AWAY FROM THE GREAT DOMED CITY...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! IT'S NOT LIKE AQUAMAN AND THE OTHERS TO MISS AN IMPORTANT MEETING LIKE THIS! HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM!
HEY! A COUPLE OF FIGURES... OFF IN THE DISTANCE! IT... IT'S...
AQUALAD! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO AQUAMAN?
TULA! YOU ARE A SIGHT FOR WEARY EYES! C'MON DOWN! I NEED SOME HELP!
WE WERE CAUGHT IN SOME SORT OF... A... A WHIRLPOOL! I GOT DIZZY... MUST HAVE PASSED OUT! WHEN I CAME TO, THE OCEAN WAS CALM AGAIN... AND AQUABABY WAS SITTING NEXT TO ME, CRYING!
I FOUND AQUAMAN LIKE THIS! COULDN'T FIND MERA ANYWH... HEY! HE'S COMING AROUND!
OOOo...


AQUALAD! WHERE'S MERA? AND THE OTHERS? WHERE ARE THEY? WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
MERA! SHE'S... SHE'S BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE!
I... I DON'T KNOW! COULDN'T SEE THEM! BUT THAT ONE GUY SURE PACKED A WALLOP.. DIDN'T SEEM LIKE AN ORDINARY PUNCH EITHER.. MORE LIKE HE HAD SOME SORT OF SUPER-STRENGTH OR SOMETHING!
HUH? WHAT OTHERS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT?!
OOOO... FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN OUT COLD FOR QUITE AWHILE! GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH CHANCE OF OUR CATCHING UP TO THEM NOW!
WE'D BETTER GET AQUABABY HOME! AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!
WHO...WHO WERE THEY?

THEN, AS THE ATLANTEANS HEAD TOWARD THEIR UNDERSEA CITY, AQUAMAN EXPLAINS FURTHER...


...SOMEHOW THEY MUST HAVE PRODUCED THE SWIRLING OF THE WATER... TO SERVE AS CAMOUFLAGE...WHILE THEY WERE TAKING MERA!
BUT WHY WAS SHE TAKEN? AND WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL? THOSE ARE THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS I MUST FIND THE ANSWERS TO IF I EVER HOPE TO FIND MERA!


AND ONCE THEY REACH ATLANTIS...
AQUAMAN, I THINK I FOUND A WAY TO REMOVE THE SUBSTANCE BLACK MANTA INFUSED INTO OUR DOME!* THAT WAY WE...
DON'T BOTHER ME NOW, VULKO! I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON MY MIND!
I CAN STILL SEE THAT RING, WITH THE STRANGE FIVE-SIDED STONE, THAT THE ONE WHO SLUGGED ME WORE!
MOST LIKELY, THIS WAS JUST PHASE ONE OF A MUCH LARGER SCHEME! SO PERHAPS I SHOULD STAY HERE... WAIT FOR HER CAPTORS TO MAKE THEIR NEXT MOVE!
NO! I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND! I'VE GOT TO GO LOOK FOR HER... GOT TO FIND MERA!
* AGAIN, SEE AQUAMAN NO. 35.

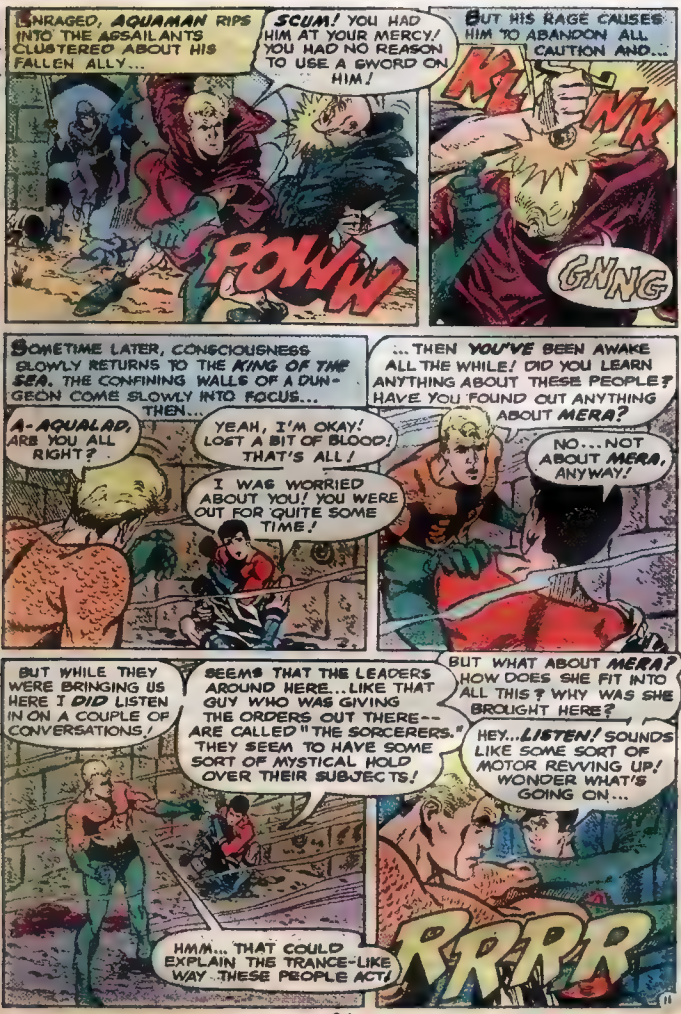
THUS, LEAVING AQUABABY IN THE CARE OF TULA, AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD SOON RIDE OUT FROM ATLANTIS, TO BEGIN THEIR SEARCH FOR QUEEN MERA...
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE LITTLE FELLA! WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! HIS MOTHER, TOO!
WISH I FELT AS CONFIDENT AS THAT SOUNDED!
CHANCES OF FINDING HER ARE SLIM, BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN JUST SITTING AROUND, WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO BREAK! WE HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING... TILL WE FIND A CLUE!
THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHERE!
AQUAMAN, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHERE WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN THE SEARCH!
MERA COULD BE IN ANY ONE OF A MILLION PLACES! HER CAPTORS COULD BE INHABITANTS OF ANY OF A THOUSAND UNDERWATER COLONIES! OR THEY COULD JUST AS WELL BE AIR-BREATHERS!
MORE THAN A DAY PASSES... THE TWO SEARCHERS PUSH ON RELENTLESSLY...UNTIL...
LOOK, AQUAMAN! WHAT IS IT??
LOOKS LIKE A WALLED-IN MEDIEVAL VILLAGE...BUT IT KEEPS SHIMMERING AND WAVERING... AS THOUGH IT WEREN'T REALLY THERE...AS THOUGH IT WERE A MIRAGE...

THEN, STEALTHILY THEY MOVE IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...
WELL, IT'S REAL ALL RIGHT! BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING VERY WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE!
BUT LIKE I SAID, WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH EVERYWHERE... LISTEN, I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND INSIDE! YOU'D BETTER STAY HERE AND...
OH NO! I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO WAIT AT THE DOOR...
BUT...OH, ALL RIGHT! BUT WATCH YOUR STEP! IF THIS PLACE IS INHABITED, THE PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE UNINVITED VISITORS! WE'LL TRY THE REAR ENTRANCE... SEE IF WE CAN SLIP IN, UNNOTICED!
WELL, WE'RE IN! BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT GUARD, I DOUBT THAT THESE FOLKS APPRECIATE FOREIGNERS!
WOW! DIG THOSE CRAZY THREADS...
SHHH...
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT FITTING IN!
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY! AND THERE ARE OUR TWO PIGEONS NOW!
WITHIN SECONDS...
NOT QUITE MY SIZE, BUT I GUESS IT'LL DO!
HURRY UP! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN...
YOU CHECK OUT THAT SIDE OF TOWN! I'LL LOOK OVER HERE... THEN WE'LL MEET BACK AT THE...
WAIT! AQUAMAN, LOOK! TH-THAT PROCESSION!

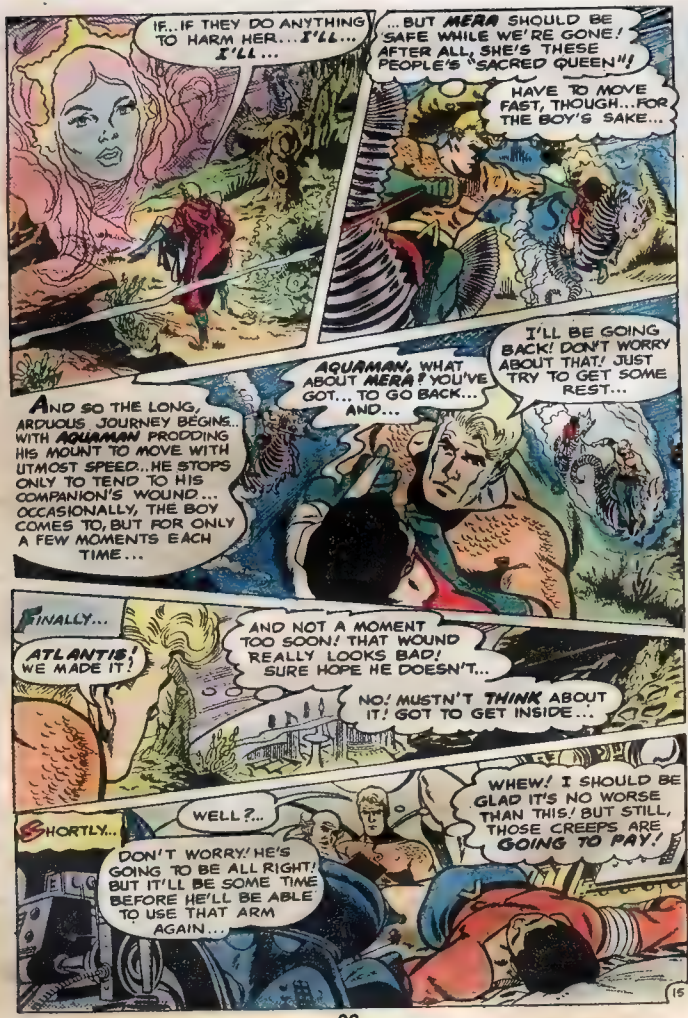
AQUAMAN TURNS, AND THE SIGHT OF A FAMILIAR FACE ROCKS HIS SENSES... BUT THE AMAZEMENT DOESN'T STOP THERE...
WHA-? IT... IT'S MERA!! SHE'S HERE!
BUT... SHE'S LEADING THE PROCESSION!
AND THOSE PEOPLE-- THEY'RE BOWING DOWN TO HER! AS THOUGH SHE WERE... THEIR QUEEN!
END PART ONE

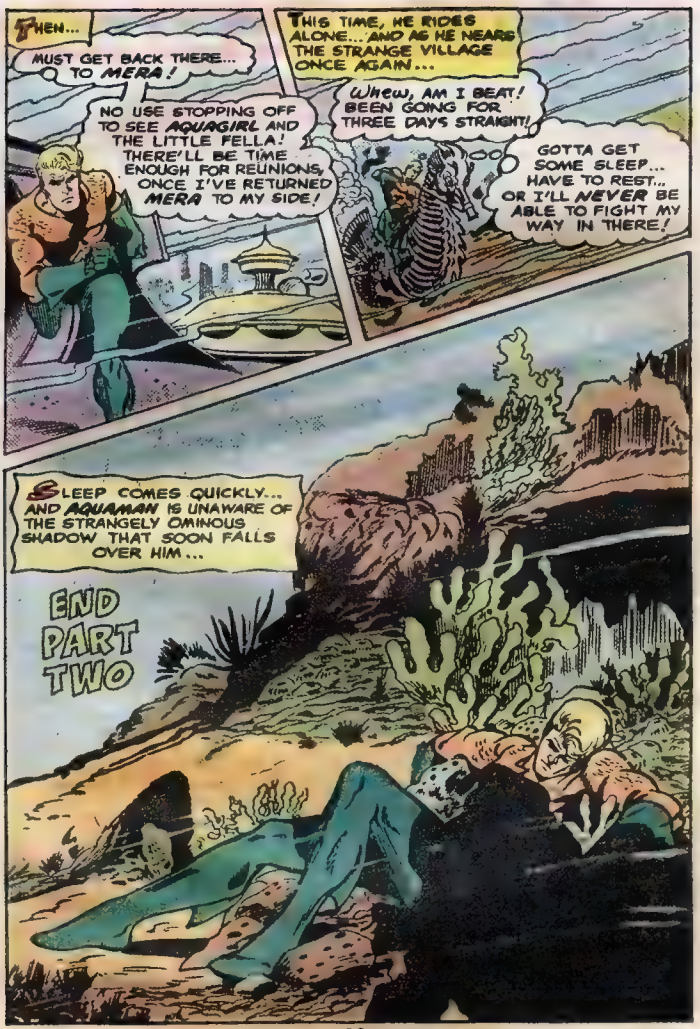
PART 2
"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"
INCREDIBLE! ALL THESE PEOPLE, KNEELING DOWN BEFORE MERA! IT'S AS THOUGH SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THEIR QUEEN!
STAY HERE, AQUALAD! I'M GOING TO MOVE IN CLOSER... SEE IF I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
?
BUT BEFORE AQUAMAN CAN REACH HIS BELOVED MERA...
KNEEL, FOOL! SHOW PROPER RESPECT FOR YOUR... EH? AN OUTSIDER!
UH-OH... BETTER SCOOT!
LOOK! THE OUTSIDER SEEKS TO ATTACK OUR QUEEN! SLAY HIM...AT ONCE!
GOT TO GRAB MERA AND GET THE HECK OUTTA HERE!
OOOPS! THE WHOLE TOWN'S UP IN ARMS AGAINST ME! NOW I'M REALLY IN FOR IT!

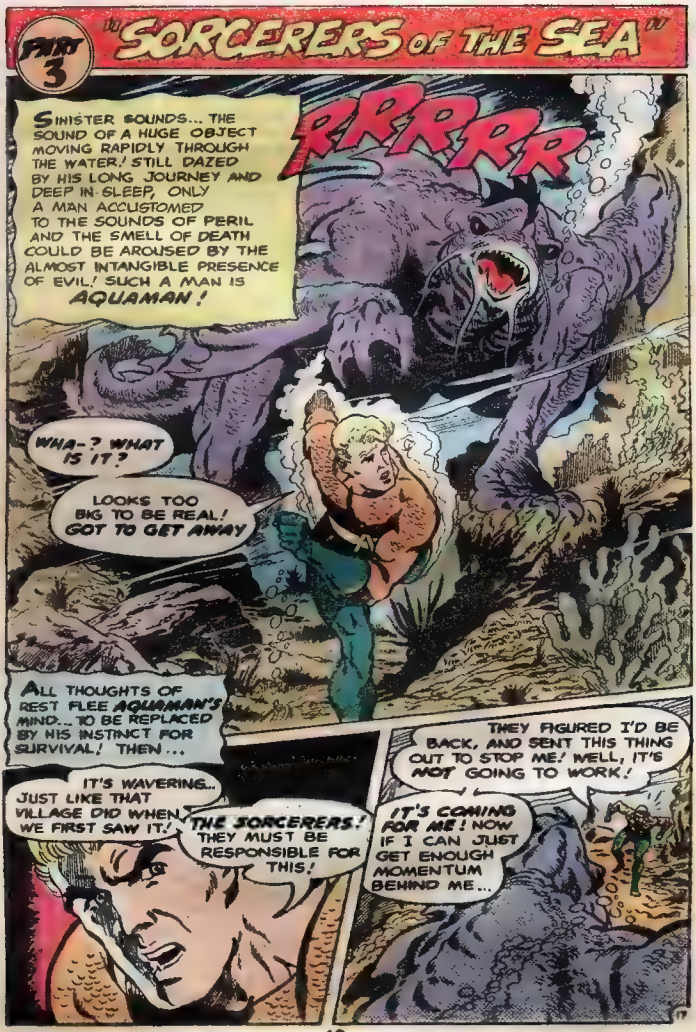
THESE PEOPLE ARE REACTING SLOWLY! SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE IN A TRANCE...
AND THEY'RE WEAK... NOT AT ALL LIKE THAT ONE WHO SLUGGED ME BACK NEAR ATLANTIS!
KRAK
BUT THEY NEEDN'T BE ANY STRONGER THAN THEY ARE! THEY'LL MOW ME DOWN BY SHEER NUMBERS...
OUR QUEEN IS SAFE! HE CANNOT ESCAPE MY BLADE, NOW!
THOK
AQUAMAN! LOOK OUT! BEHIND YOU!
HUH?
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, TADPOLE... SAVED MY NECK!
OOOMPH!
LOOK! ANOTHER ONE! SLAY THEM BOTH! NO OUTSIDER SHALL ATTACK OUR SACRED QUEEN!
INSTANTLY, THE ROBED ONES TURN TOWARD A NEW QUARRY... ONE WHO APPEARS TO BE LESS FORMIDABLE THAN AQUAMAN...
CAN'T MOVE... THEY'VE GOT ME!
THE SEA KING TRIES TO BREAK FREE FROM HIS ATTACKERS...
YI! MY ARM!!
GOOD GOD! NO! AQUALAD!!
THOK


ENRAGED, AQUAMAN RIPS INTO THE ASSAILANTS CLUSTERED ABOUT HIS FALLEN ALLY...
SCUM! YOU HAD HIM AT YOUR MERCY! YOU HAD NO REASON TO USE A SWORD ON HIM!
POW!!
BUT HIS RAGE CAUSES HIM TO ABANDON ALL CAUTION AND...
KL
NK
GNNG
SOMETIME LATER, CONSCIOUSNESS SLOWLY RETURNS TO THE KING OF THE SEA. THE CONFINING WALLS OF A DUNGEON COME SLOWLY INTO FOCUS... THEN...
A-AQUALAD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M OKAY! LOST A BIT OF BLOOD! THAT'S ALL!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU! YOU WERE OUT FOR QUITE SOME TIME!
...THEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL THE WHILE! DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT MERA?
NO... NOT ABOUT MERA, ANYWAY!
BUT WHILE THEY WERE BRINGING US HERE I DID LISTEN IN ON A COUPLE OF CONVERSATIONS!
SEEMS THAT THE LEADERS AROUND HERE... LIKE THAT GUY WHO WAS GIVING THE ORDERS OUT THERE-- ARE CALLED "THE SORCERERS." THEY SEEM TO HAVE SOME SORT OF MYSTICAL HOLD OVER THEIR SUBJECTS!
HMM... THAT COULD EXPLAIN THE TRANCE-LIKE WAY THESE PEOPLE ACT!
BUT WHAT ABOUT MERA? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO ALL THIS? WHY WAS SHE BROUGHT HERE?
HEY... LISTEN! SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF MOTOR REVVING UP! WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...
RRRR

MOTOR?...
UH-OH! THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! UP THERE! THEY'RE PUMPING THE WATER OUT OF THIS ROOM!
SUFFERIN' SEA SNAKES!
RRRR
THIS MUST BE THEIR WAY OF FINISHING OFF UNWANTED GUESTS! LOCK THEM UP... TAKE AWAY THEIR WATER... GIVE THEM A NICE LONG LINGERING DEATH!
THIS DOESN'T GIVE US MUCH TIME...
...WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHIN AN HOUR OR WE'RE DONE FOR!
WE'VE GOT LESS TIME THAN THAT, I'M AFRAID..
AQUALAD MAY NOT BE COMPLAINING, BUT HE LOOKS QUITE PALE! I DOUBT THAT HE'D LAST MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR WITHOUT WATER...
I HAVE TO WORK FAST...
HMM... THEY LEFT OUR ROBES...
THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...
STRAINING MIGHTILY, AQUAMAN CONCENTRATES! TELEPATHIC EMANATIONS RADIATE FROM HIS BRAIN, SUMMONING FORTH...
12


IF...IF THEY DO ANYTHING TO HARM HER... I'LL... I'LL...
...BUT MERA SHOULD BE SAFE WHILE WE'RE GONE! AFTER ALL, SHE'S THESE PEOPLE'S "SACRED QUEEN"!
HAVE TO MOVE FAST, THOUGH...FOR THE BOY'S SAKE...
AND SO THE LONG, ARDUOUS JOURNEY BEGINS... WITH AQUAMAN PRODDING HIS MOUNT TO MOVE WITH UTMOST SPEED...HE STOPS ONLY TO TEND TO HIS COMPANION'S WOUND... OCCASIONALLY, THE BOY COMES TO, BUT FOR ONLY A FEW MOMENTS EACH TIME...
AQUAMAN, WHAT ABOUT MERA? YOU'VE GOT... TO GO BACK... AND...
I'LL BE GOING BACK! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! JUST TRY TO GET SOME REST...
FINALLY...
ATLANTIS! WE MADE IT!
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! THAT WOUND REALLY LOOKS BAD! SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T...
NO! MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT IT! GOT TO GET INSIDE...
SHORTLY...
WELL?...
DON'T WORRY! HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! BUT IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE HE'LL BE ABLE TO USE THAT ARM AGAIN...
WHEW! I SHOULD BE GLAD IT'S NO WORSE THAN THIS! BUT STILL, THOSE CREEPS ARE GOING TO PAY!
15


THEN...
MUST GET BACK THERE... TO MERA!
NO USE STOPPING OFF TO SEE AQUAGIRL AND THE LITTLE FELLA! THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR REUNIONS ONCE I'VE RETURNED MERA TO MY SIDE!
THIS TIME, HE RIDES ALONE... AND AS HE NEARS THE STRANGE VILLAGE ONCE AGAIN...
WHEW, AM I BEAT! BEEN GOING FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT!
GOTTA GET SOME SLEEP... HAVE TO REST... OR I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT MY WAY IN THERE!
SLEEP COMES QUICKLY... AND AQUAMAN IS UNAWARE OF THE STRANGELY OMINOUS SHADOW THAT SOON FALLS OVER HIM...
END PART TWO


PART 3
"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"
SINISTER SOUNDS... THE SOUND OF A HUGE OBJECT MOVING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE WATER! STILL DAZED BY HIS LONG JOURNEY AND DEEP IN SLEEP, ONLY A MAN ACCUSTOMED TO THE SOUNDS OF PERIL AND THE SMELL OF DEATH COULD BE AROUSED BY THE ALMOST INTANGIBLE PRESENCE OF EVIL! SUCH A MAN IS AQUAMAN!
RRRRR
WHA-? WHAT IS IT?
LOOKS TOO BIG TO BE REAL! GOT TO GET AWAY
ALL THOUGHTS OF REST FLEE AQUAMAN'S MIND... TO BE REPLACED BY HIS INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL! THEN...
IT'S WAVERING... JUST LIKE THAT VILLAGE DID WHEN WE FIRST SAW IT!
THE SORCERERS! THEY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
THEY FIGURED I'D BE BACK, AND SENT THIS THING OUT TO STOP ME! WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK!
IT'S COMING FOR ME! NOW IF I CAN JUST GET ENOUGH MOMENTUM BEHIND ME...

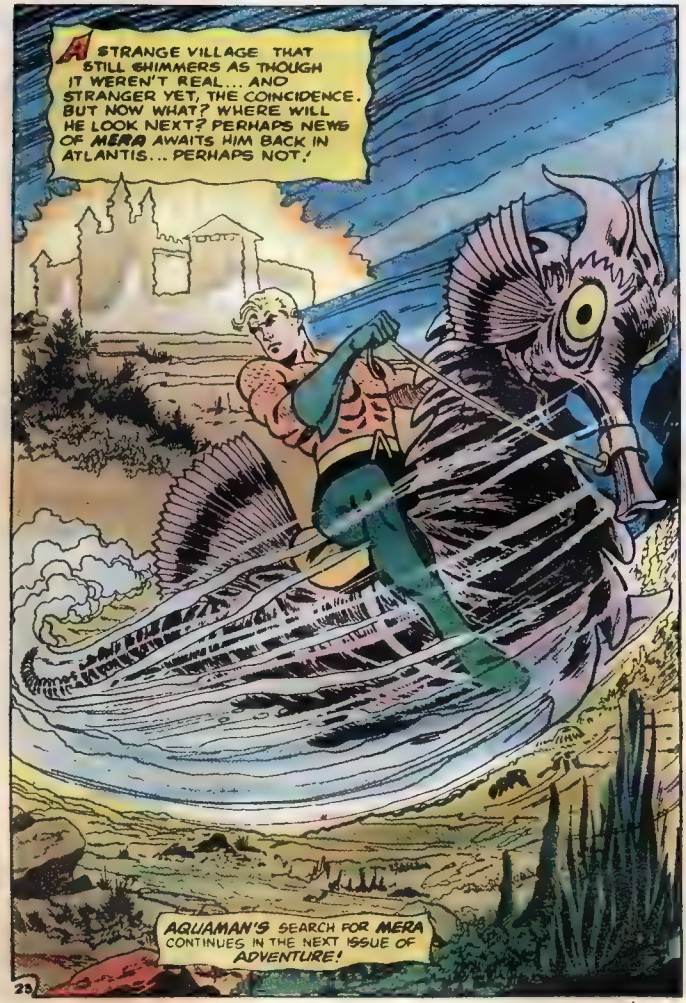
THEN, SWIMMING FORWARD WITH TREMENDOUS SPEED, AS ONLY THE SEA KING CAN...
AQUAMAN'S FIST BLURS AS IT ARCS THROUGH THE WATER, BUT..
HUH? IT...IT VANISHED!!
POOF
SORCERY! OF COURSE! THAT'S IT! THEY NEVER INTENDED FOR ME OR ANYONE ELSE TO FIGHT THAT THING-IT WAS SUPPOSED TO FRIGHTEN ME AWAY!
GOT TO GIVE HIM EVERYTHING I'VE GOT. IF I DON'T K.O. HIM ON THE FIRST PUNCH, I MIGHT NOT GET A SECOND TRY!
SOON, OUTSIDE THE STRANGE, SHIMMERING CITY...
THIS WILL BE THE THIRD TIME I'VE USED THIS WEARING-THE-ROBE BIT! IT WORKED THE OTHER TWO TIMES, SO WHY NOT THIS TIME, TOO!
WELL, THAT WAS EASY... NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE ROYAL PALACE... AND THE QUEEN'S QUARTERS...
HMMM... MAYBE THAT BUILDING.. LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE A PALACE...

NOBODY AROUND INSIDE! THAT'LL MAKE MOVEMENT A LOT EASIER...
AND NO ONE SEEMED TO MIND MY COMING IN HERE...
LONG CORRIDOR AFTER LONG CORRIDOR, LEADING TO SILENT EMPTY ROOMS...
THIS PLACE IS DESERTED...
NO! WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE STATIONED OUTSIDE THAT ROOM! COULD BE THE QUEEN'S GUARD!
AND SURE ENOUGH, AS AQUAMAN APPROACHES...
HALT! YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE! NO MERE SUBJECT IS ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE QUEEN'S CHAMBERS!
WELL, WELL, THANKS FOR THE BRIEFING...
NOW I HAVE ALL THE FACTS I NEED!
EH? AN OUTSIDER... STOP!
THE ROBED ONE CALMLY RAISES HIS HANDS, AND A STRANGE ENERGY BEAM CRACKLES THROUGH THE BRINE AND SLAMS THE SEA KING BACK AGAINST THE WALL...
KKKRAKKK
UNNNH!
19

HE'S...HITTING ME WITH SOME SORT OF FORCE BEAM...GOT TO FIGHT IT!
IT'S USELESS TO RESIST, UNENLIGHTENED DOLT! NO ONE CAN OVERCOME THE POWERS OF THE SEA SORCERERS!
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN! BUT I'D RATHER LEARN BY EXPERIENCE, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
I... I'M MAKING... SOME HEADWAY!
AND WITH EACH STEP... THE GOING SEEMS TO... GET EASIER!
ONE THING'S IN MY FAVOR! HE CAN'T TRY ANYTHING ELSE! HE'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL... POURING ON THE ENERGY!
HE KNOWS IF HE LETS UP FOR JUST A SECOND, I'LL BE ALL OVER HIM...
A CONTEST OF WILLS... EACH CONTESTANT UTILIZING ALL HIS STRENGTH... AND AQUAMAN DRAWS A LITTLE CLOSER WITH EACH PASSING SECOND...
20

...STEP BY STEP...INCH BY INCH...UNTIL...
ALMOST GOT HIM! ONLY A FEW MORE PACES...
NO! THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE! YOU...
IT'S POSSIBLE, FELLA! BELIEVE ME...
THERE! NOW NOTHING STANDS IN MY WAY!
NOT BAD FOR AN "UNENLIGHTENED DOLT!"
THE SACRED QUEEN RECOILS, AS SHE RE-COGNIZES THE OUTSIDER WHO ONCE TRIED TO ATTACK HER...
AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
MERA...!?
WHA--? HOW DARE YOU COME BARGI... YOU!
YOU'RE BACK!! WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT? GET AWAY FROM ME!
MERA! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
IT'S AQUAMAN! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? HAVE THEY PUT YOU IN A TRANCE, TOO?
I S-SAID GET AWAY!
HERE! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT MY FACE! I... WHA--?
Y-YOUR EYES! THEY'RE... THEY'RE NOT THE SAME COLOR...
Y-YOU'RE NOT MERA! YOU...YOU CAN'T BE!!

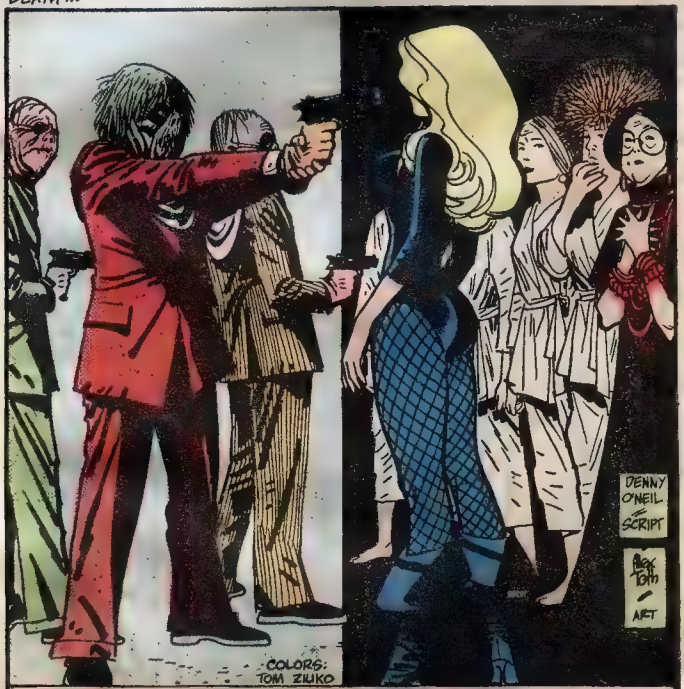
YOU'RE JUST A...A LOOK-ALIKE! YOU COULD PASS AS MERA'S TWIN!
I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I WENT THROUGH ALL THIS BECAUSE OF A DOUBLE FOR MERA!
YES, IT... IT ALL MAKES SENSE! THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE ACTED AS THOUGH YOU HAD ALWAYS BEEN THEIR QUEEN! YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THEIR QUEEN!
AND THAT'S WHY YOUR PEOPLE WEREN'T STRONG, LIKE THOSE WHO TOOK MERA...
SNAP
THE SORCERERS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MERA'S ABDUCTION! THIS WAS ALL A COINCIDENCE... A MONSTROUS COINCIDENCE!
SOMEONE ELSE TOOK HER, AND I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME CHASING A DOUBLE!
NOW WHAT?? LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED!
GOT TO GET OUT AND START SEARCHING FOR HER AGAIN!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT??
NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT! IT'S MY PROBLEM NOW! I FOUGHT MY WAY IN HERE, AND IF I HAVE TO, I'LL FIGHT MY WAY BACK OUT! I STILL HAVE TO FIND MERA!
BUT LUCK IS WITH THE KING OF THE SEA...
GOOD! HE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS! SO MAYBE I CAN AT LEAST MAKE IT OUT OF HERE WITHOUT GETTING INTO A FIGHT!


A STRANGE VILLAGE THAT STILL SHIMMERS AS THOUGH IT WEREN'T REAL... AND STRANGER YET, THE COINCIDENCE. BUT NOW WHAT? WHERE WILL HE LOOK NEXT? PERHAPS NEWS OF MERA AWAITS HIM BACK IN ATLANTIS... PERHAPS NOT.
AQUAMAN'S SEARCH FOR MERA CONTINUES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ADVENTURE!
23

PRESENTING AN ALL NEW ADVENTURE OF THE LOVELIEST LADY CRIME-FIGHTER OF THEM ALL ...THE

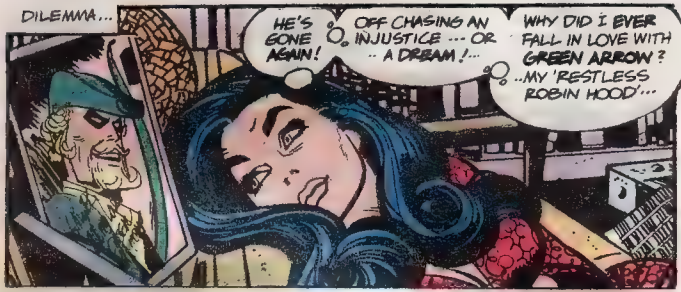
BLACK CANARY

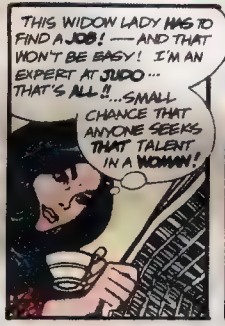
MUSCLES TENSED, SHE FACES HER MASKED FOES...AND HER OWN SUDDEN, VIOLENT DEATH ...



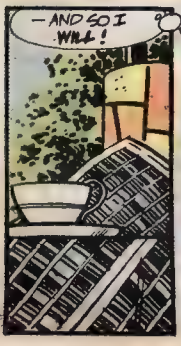
IN THESE FEW SECONDS, SHE RECALLS HOW SHE CAME TO THIS DEN OF DANGER.

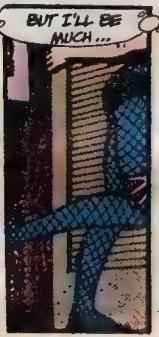
...WHEN, ONLY THE WEEK BEFORE, AS DINAH DRAKE, SHE FACED ANOTHER, LESS CRITICAL, DILEMMA...

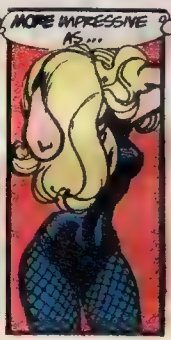



THIS WIDOW LADY HAS TO FIND A JOB! — AND THAT WON'T BE EASY! I'M AN EXPERT AT JUDO... THAT'S ALL!!"...SMALL CHANCE THAT ANYONE SEEKS THAT TALENT IN A WOMAN!

BUT — SOMEBODY DOES!! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS AD... WANTED: WOMAN TO TEACH CLASS IN ORIENTAL SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES! APPLY IN PERSON!"

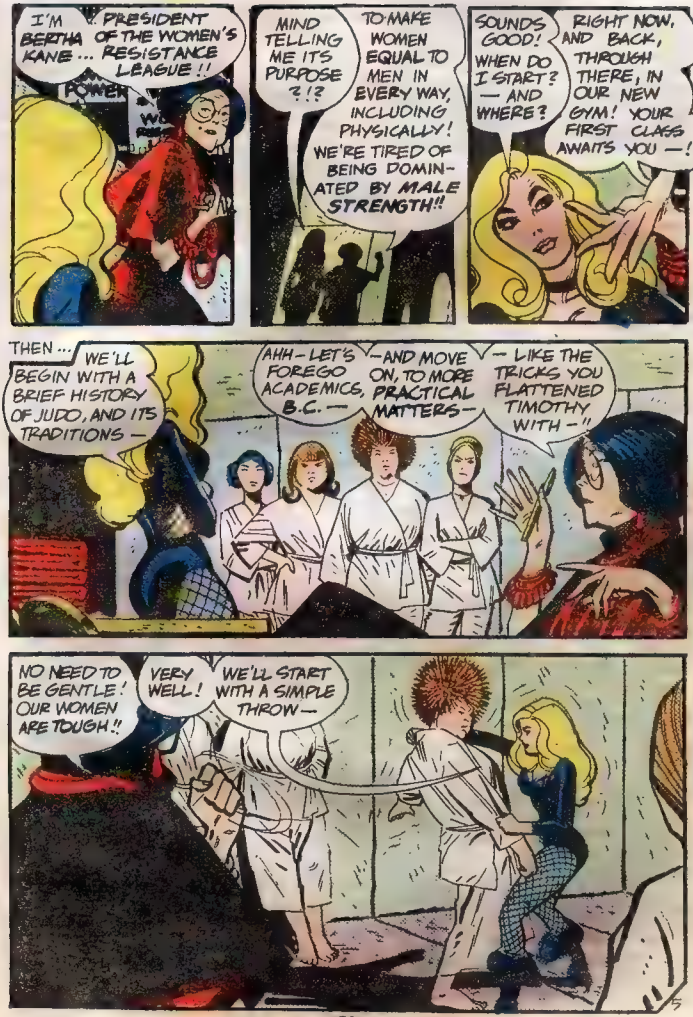






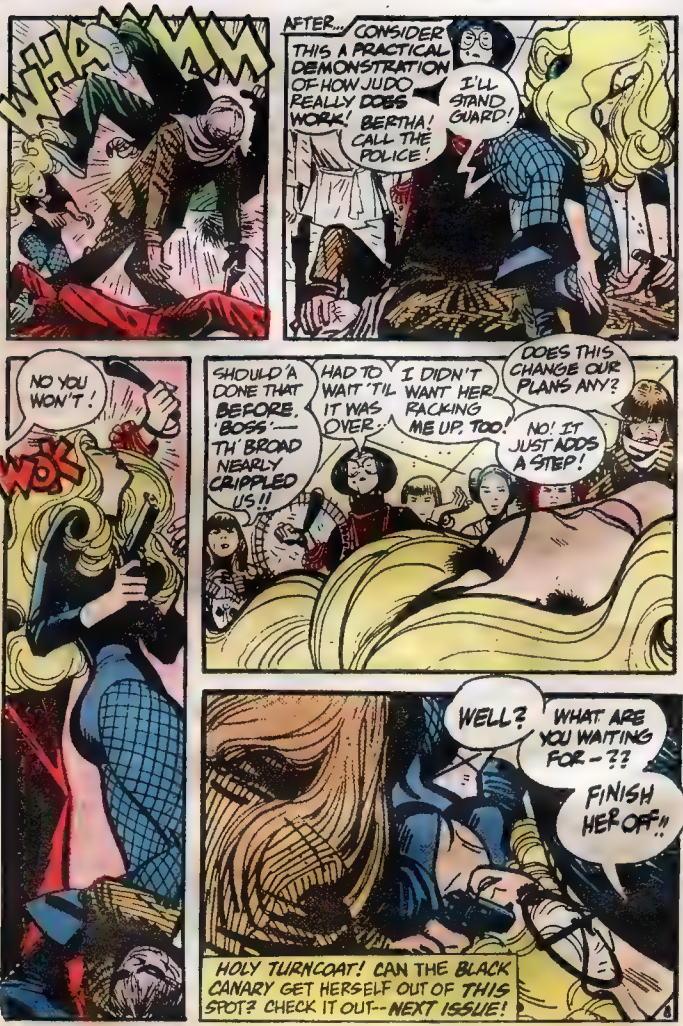
LATER...
BY NOON, SHE REACHED HER DESTINATION.
BRRAAKKABRRAAMMM
I'VE BEEN IN NICER NEIGHBORHOODS — STILL, IT'S A JOB!
WOMEN'S RESISTANCE LEAGUE
HELLO! I'VE COME ABOUT THE POSITION YOU ADVERTISED.
OH, YES! YOU LOOK FAMILIAR! HAVE I SEEN YOU BEFORE? — OR YOUR PICTURE — IN A NEWSPAPER, PERHAPS?
YES! YOU'RE THE BLACK CANARY!
TELL ME, RIGHT! CAN YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, HONEY?
IF YOU MEAN... DO I KNOW JUDO? THE ANSWER IS — YES!
LET'S SEE! TIMOTHY! TEST HER!

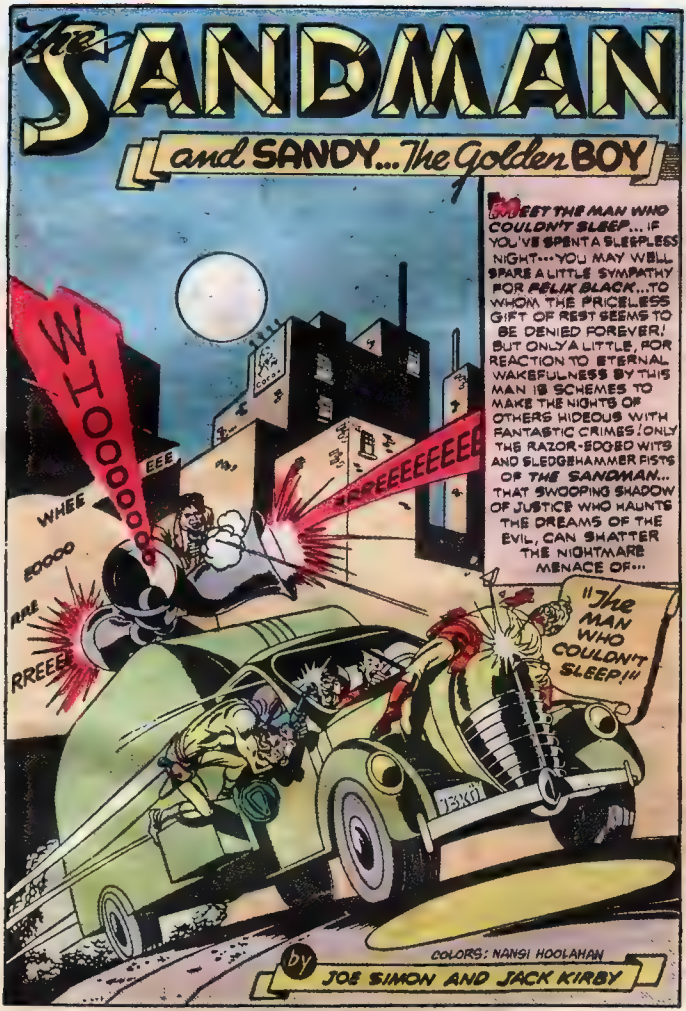
NNRRGFF
OOWWOOOWUKKKK
HAW HAW HAW
GOTCHA, LI'L OL' BIRDIE!
HOOOF
GRRROOWFFFF
EEEEEEEEOWWWFFFF
NO NEED!
THE JOB IS YOURS!
WANT TO TRY AGAIN?


I'M BERTHA KANE ... PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S RESISTANCE LEAGUE !!
POWER
MIND TELLING ME ITS PURPOSE ?!?
TO MAKE WOMEN EQUAL TO MEN IN EVERY WAY, INCLUDING PHYSICALLY! WE'RE TIRED OF BEING DOMINATED BY MALE STRENGTH!!
SOUNDS GOOD! WHEN DO I START? — AND WHERE?
RIGHT NOW, AND BACK, THROUGH THERE, IN OUR NEW GYM! YOUR FIRST CLASS AWAITS YOU —!
THEN ...
WE'LL BEGIN WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF JUDO, AND ITS TRADITIONS —
AHH - LET'S FOREGO ACADEMICS, B.C. —
- AND MOVE ON, TO MORE PRACTICAL MATTERS -
— LIKE THE TRICKS YOU FLATTENED TIMOTHY WITH —!!
NO NEED TO BE GENTLE! OUR WOMEN ARE TOUGH!!
VERY WELL!
WE'LL START WITH A SIMPLE THROW —

FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS SHE WORKED HARD, GIVING HER PUPILS SKILLS A LESSER INSTRUCTOR MIGHT HAVE TAKEN WEEKS TO TEACH —
OKAY! THAT'S ALL FOR NOW! DINNER BREAK!
BERTHA WASN'T KIDDING!
THESE GALS ARE RUGGED!
THEY LEARN QUICKLY — AS IF VIOLENCE WAS NATIVE TO THEM!
HMMMMM...
WELL —
WHO, OR WHAT THEY ARE ISN'T MY CONCERN! MY JOB IS!!
MAYBE I CAN FIND A QUIET SPOT IN THE CELLAR —
— FOR SOME REST AND READING —

VOICES! FROM BEHIND THAT DOOR!
..YOU COVER THE FRONT!
..WE WON'T HESITATE TO SHOOT
THEY'RE HOLDING MY CLASS AT GUNPOINT!
REACH, BABY—
AND GO INSIDE
QUIETLY!!
THUS, WE'VE COME FULL CIRCLE, BACK TO THE PRESENT, TELLING HOW THE BLACK CANARY CAME TO BE IN THIS CIRCLE OF DOOM!!!
TOO BAD YOU HAPPENED BY, SWEETIE! WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE, NOW—
YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE, TOO!
I OBJECT—
—PHYSICALLY!!
SSWOKKK
STOP HER!!
YOU STOP HER!!

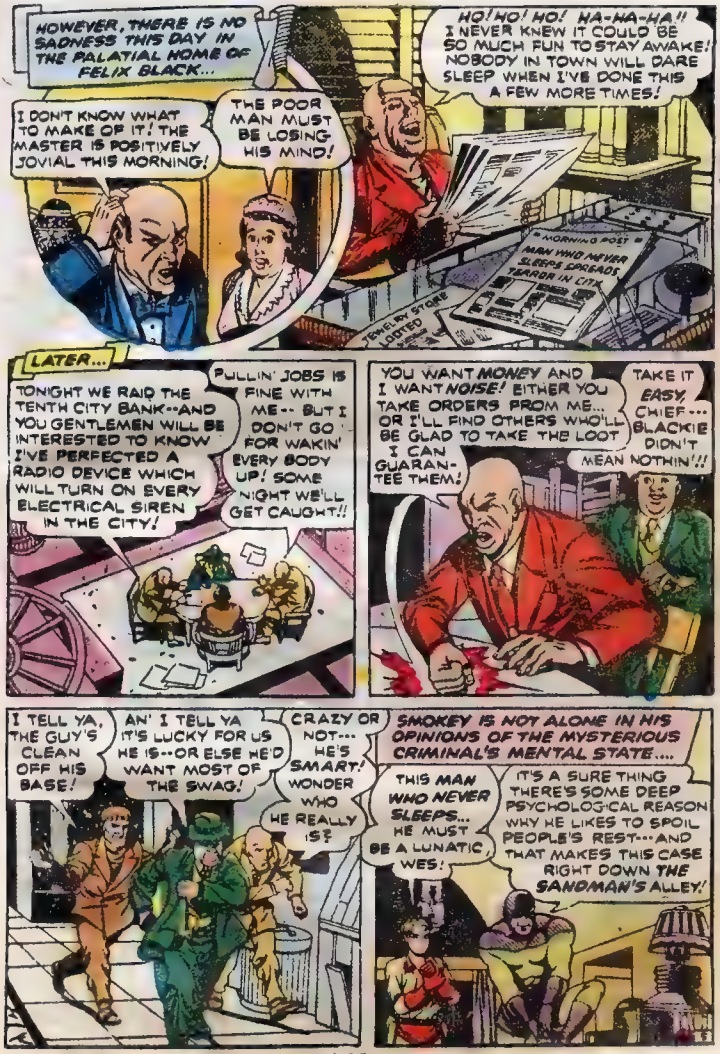

WHAM
AFTER... CONSIDER THIS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF HOW JUDO REALLY DOES WORK!
BERTHA! CALL THE POLICE!
I'LL STAND GUARD!
NO YOU WON'T!
WOK
SHOULD'A DONE THAT BEFORE, 'BOSS'— TH' BROAD NEARLY CRIPPLED US!!
HAD TO WAIT 'TIL IT WAS OVER...
I DIDN'T WANT HER RACKING ME UP, TOO!
DOES THIS CHANGE OUR PLANS ANY?
NO! IT JUST ADDS A STEP!
WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR—??
FINISH HER OFF!!
HOLY TURNCOAT! CAN THE BLACK CANARY GET HERSELF OUT OF THIS SPOT? CHECK IT OUT--NEXT ISSUE!

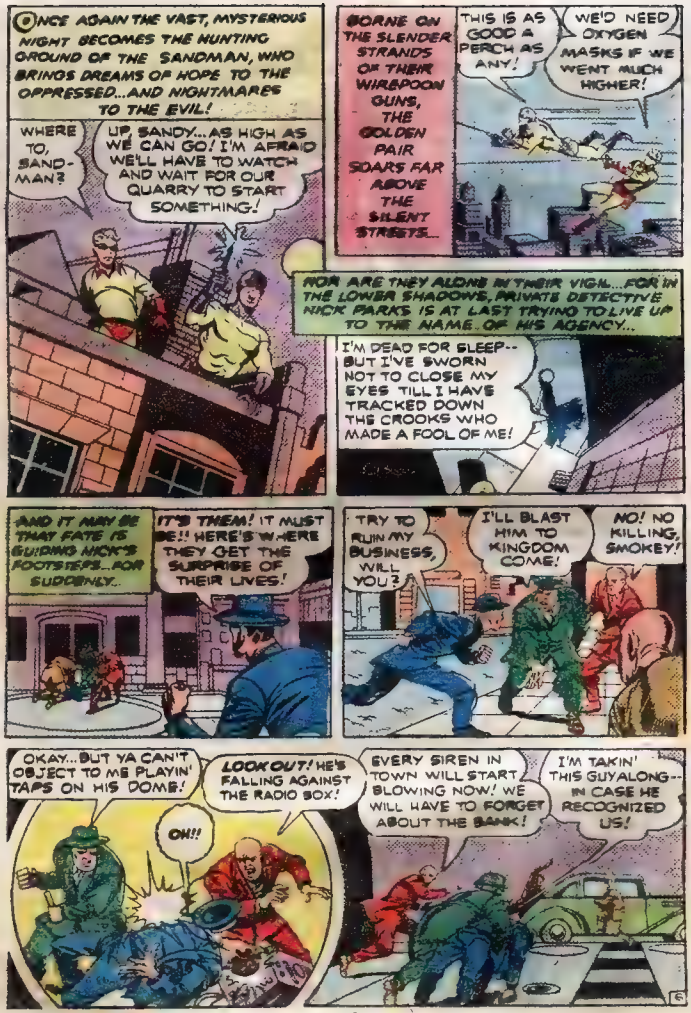

The SANDMAN
and SANDY... The Golden BOY
MEET THE MAN WHO COULDN'T SLEEP... IF YOU'VE SPENT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT... YOU MAY WELL SPARE A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR FELIX BLACK... TO WHOM THE PRICELESS GIFT OF REST SEEMS TO BE DENIED FOREVER! BUT ONLY A LITTLE, FOR REACTION TO ETERNAL WAKEFULNESS BY THIS MAN IS SCHEMES TO MAKE THE NIGHTS OF OTHERS HIDEOUS WITH FANTASTIC CRIMES! ONLY THE RAZOR-EDGED WITS AND SLEDGEHAMMER FISTS OF THE SANDMAN... THAT SWOOPING SHADOW OF JUSTICE WHO HAUNTS THE DREAMS OF THE EVIL, CAN SHATTER THE NIGHTMARE MENACE OF...
WHEEEEEEEEE
EEE
WHEE
EOOOO
RRE
RREEE
"The MAN WHO COULDN'T SLEEP!!"
COLORS: NANSI HOOLAHAN
by JOE SIMON AND JACK KIRBY

WHO IS THIS MAN WHO GAZES WITH HATRED AT THE MOON FROM HIS MARBLE BALCONY?
THE MOON! SOME PEOPLE LIKE IT--- BUT I'D GIVE HALF MY FORTUNE NEVER TO SEE IT AGAIN!
WHO PACES TAPESTRY-HUNG CORRIDORS THROUGH THE SLOW, SMALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT?
THE CLOCK AND I... WE NEVER REST! I COULD STOP THE CLOCK... BUT I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
WHO PORES THROUGH ENDLESS VOLUMES OF LEARNING AS GRAY DAWN STREAKS THE EAST?...
PSYCHOLOGY... PHILOSOPHY... CRIMINOLOGY--I'VE READ EVERYTHING WRITTEN ABOUT THEM THESE FORTY YEARS--- BUT I'D TRADE ALL I'VE LEARNED FOR ONE NIGHT'S SLEEP!
...AND GIVES WAY FINALLY TO AN OVERFLOW OF BITTER ANGER!
YOUR MORNING COFFEE, MR. BLACK! WHA...?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHETHER IT'S MORNING OR MIDNIGHT? GET OUT-- YOU FOOL!
LATER... IN THE SCULLERY---
THE MASTER IS IN ANOTHER OF HIS RAGES!
I DON'T BLAME HIM! THE POOR MAN HASN'T HAD A MINUTE'S SLEEP IN FORTY YEARS! EVER SINCE HE HAD THAT ACCIDENT AS A BOY! A NERVE IN HIS BRAIN INJURED, THE DOCTORS SAY!
YES! IT'S TRUE!! FELIX BLACK IS ONE OF THOSE RARE CASES KNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE OF A MAN WHO CANNOT SLEEP... WHO CAN NEVER RELAX--- YET WHO SOMEHOW GOES ON LIVING... GETTING MORE TENSE EVERY DAY!
WHY SHOULD I SIT ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS WHILE OTHER PEOPLE SLEEP? WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ACTIVE BY NIGHT AS WELL AS DAY?---
--- IN SOME ACTIVITY THAT LENDS ITSELF TO DARKNESS AND LONELINESS... SUCH AS CRIME!

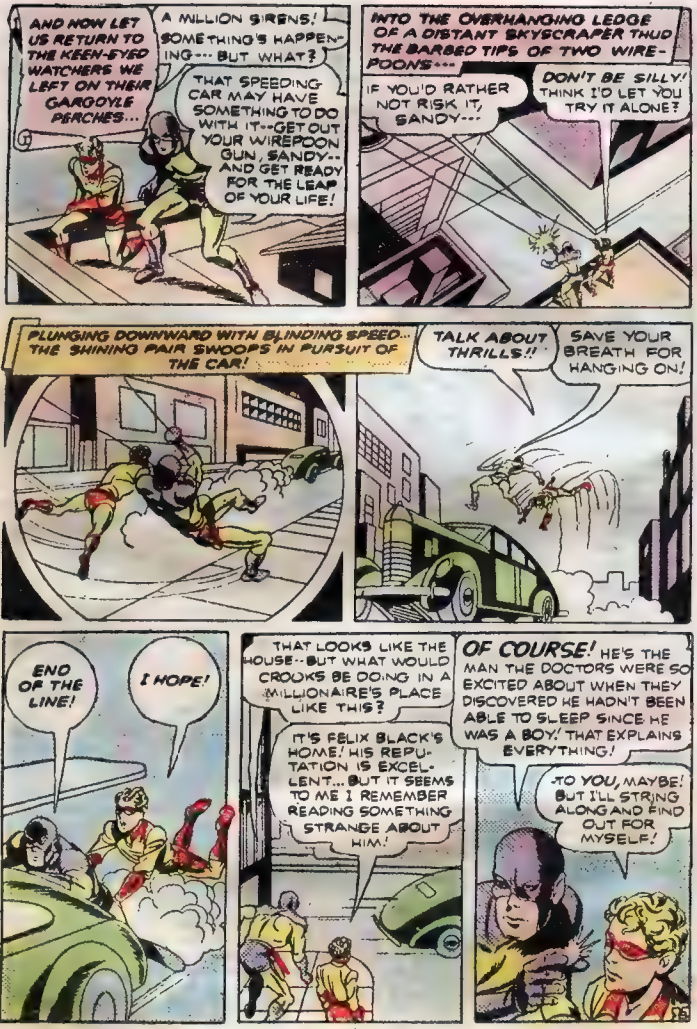
SOME NIGHTS LATER, IN THE DARKNESS OF A LONG DISUSED CARRIAGE HOUSE---
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? WE STRIKE BY NIGHT... WHEN FOOLISH MEN ARE SLEEPING! AS AN EXPERT IN CRIMINOLOGY...I PLAN ALL THE JOBS!!
WE AIN'T DIMWITS.. WE FOLLA YA!
ALL RIGHT--HERE'S OUR FIRST ROBBERY.. THE HACKLE JEWELRY COMPANY!
WE HIT IT AT MIDNIGHT, HUH?
YOU SURE GOT IT LAID OUT PRETTY!
MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CITY, WES DOODS, WEALTHY MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, PAYS A VISIT TO A STRUGGLING FRIEND!
GOLLY.. A REAL DETECTIVE!
NICK PARKS IS WE NEVER SLEEP DETECTIVE AGENCY
WELL, HE'S TRYING TO BE--ALTHOUGH HE HADN'T FOUND A CLIENT WHEN I SAW HIM LAST WEEK!
THE WE NEVER SLEEP DETECTIVE AGENCY DOESN'T LIVE UP TO ITS NAME!
HEH?
WHA--? OH.... WES DOODS AND SANDY HAWKINS!
AMAZING DEDUCTION, MY DEAR WATSON!
SINCE I SAW YOU LAST, I'VE GOT MY FIRST CLIENT... THE HACKLE JEWELRY COMPANY! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING IT!
IS THIS HOW YOU DO IT?
IT'S A SNAP! EVERY TIME I WAKE UP, I LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AND MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT!
HACKLE JEWELRY CO.
BETTER NOT LET MISTER HACKLE CATCH YOU BETWEEN LOOKS!
LATER...
THE WE NEVER SLEEP AGENCY--- WHAT A LAUGH! AS IF THERE WAS ANYONE WHO COULD DO WITHOUT SLEEP!

MIDNIGHT... AND TWO MEN FIDGET RESTLESSLY IN A SMALL TRUCK PARKED IN THE SHADOWS...
THIS NOISE-MAKIN' STUNT IS DIZZY, IF YA ASK ME, OWL!
WHO'S ASKIN' YA, SMOKEY? LONG AS WE MAKE DOUGH, WADDA WE CARE HOW DIZZY TH' BOSS IS!
WHILE TWO OTHERS FORCE AN ENTRANCE INTO A JEWELRY STORE!
THE ALARM WIRE'S CUT.. SPECIAL TOOLS TO OPEN TH' DOOR AND TH' SAFE.. CHIEF, YA OUGHTA BE A MILLIONAIRE IN TIME!
MONEY... BAH! YOU AND THE OTHERS CAN HAVE IT, CRICKET!
ALL I WANT IS EXCITEMENT..AND THE SATISFACTION OF SPOILING PEOPLE'S SLEEP!
MINUTES LATER..
BAM!
HA! HA! THAT'LL BE HEARD FOR MILES!!
AS THE ROLLING ECHO OF THE BLAST DIES AWAY, A THUNDEROUS VOICE CRASHES FROM A POWERFUL LOUD-SPEAKER..
SLEEPERS.. BEWARE! THE MAN WHO NEVER SLEEPS IS ABROAD!!
WHILE IN THE "WE NEVER SLEEP" DETECTIVE AGENCY..
AN EXPLOSION! AND A VOICE TALKING RIGHT TO ME! I HOPE I'M DREAMING- BUT I'M AFRAID I'M NOT!
SO IT IS THAT WES DODDS RECEIVES A SADDER AND A WISER VISITOR NEXT DAY!
MY FIRST AND ONLY CLIENT... AND I FELL DOWN ON THE JOB!
CHEER UP! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOME REAL DETECTIVE WORK!
BUT I HAVEN'T A SINGLE CLUE TO WORK ON!
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU WILL FIND SOMEONE TO HELP YOU!


HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SADNESS THIS DAY IN THE PALATIAL HOME OF FELIX BLACK...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT! THE MASTER IS POSITIVELY JOVIAL THIS MORNING!
THE POOR MAN MUST BE LOSING HIS MIND!
HO! HO! HO! HA-HA-HA!! I NEVER KNEW IT COULD BE SO MUCH FUN TO STAY AWAKE! NOBODY IN TOWN WILL DARE SLEEP WHEN I'VE DONE THIS A FEW MORE TIMES!
MORNING POST
MAN WHO NEVER SLEEPS SPREADS TERROR IN CITY
JEWELRY STORE LOOTED
LATER...
TONIGHT WE RAID THE TENTH CITY BANK--AND YOU GENTLEMEN WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW I'VE PERFECTED A RADIO DEVICE WHICH WILL TURN ON EVERY ELECTRICAL SIREN IN THE CITY!
PULLIN' JOBS IS FINE WITH ME-- BUT I DON'T GO FOR WAKIN' EVERY BODY UP! SOME NIGHT WE'LL GET CAUGHT!!
YOU WANT MONEY AND I WANT NOISE! EITHER YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM ME... OR I'LL FIND OTHERS WHO'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE THE LOOT I CAN GUARANTEE THEM!
TAKE IT EASY, CHIEF... BLACKIE DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'!!
I TELL YA, THE GUY'S CLEAN OFF HIS BASE!
AN' I TELL YA IT'S LUCKY FOR US HE IS--OR ELSE HE'D WANT MOST OF THE SWAG!
CRAZY OR NOT--- HE'S SMART! WONDER WHO HE REALLY IS?
SMOKEY IS NOT ALONE IN HIS OPINIONS OF THE MYSTERIOUS CRIMINAL'S MENTAL STATE....
THIS MAN WHO NEVER SLEEPS... HE MUST BE A LUNATIC, WES!
IT'S A SURE THING THERE'S SOME DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL REASON WHY HE LIKES TO SPOIL PEOPLE'S REST--- AND THAT MAKES THIS CASE RIGHT DOWN THE SANDMAN'S ALLEY!


ONCE AGAIN THE VAST, MYSTERIOUS NIGHT BECOMES THE HUNTING GROUND OF THE SANDMAN, WHO BRINGS DREAMS OF HOPE TO THE OPPRESSED...AND NIGHTMARES TO THE EVIL!
WHERE TO, SAND-MAN?
UP, SANDY...AS HIGH AS WE CAN GO! I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO WATCH AND WAIT FOR OUR QUARRY TO START SOMETHING!
BORNE ON THE SLENDER STRANDS OF THEIR WIRSPOON GUNS, THE GOLDEN PAIR SOARS FAR ABOVE THE SILENT STREETS...
THIS IS AS GOOD A PERCH AS ANY!
WE'D NEED OXYGEN MASKS IF WE WENT MUCH HIGHER!
NOR ARE THEY ALONE IN THEIR VIGIL...FOR IN THE LOWER SHADOWS, PRIVATE DETECTIVE NICK PARKS IS AT LAST TRYING TO LIVE UP TO THE NAME OF HIS AGENCY...
I'M DEAD FOR SLEEP--BUT I'VE SWORN NOT TO CLOSE MY EYES TILL I HAVE TRACKED DOWN THE CROOKS WHO MADE A FOOL OF ME!
AND IT MAY BE THAT FATE IS GUIDING NICK'S FOOTSTEPS...FOR SUDDENLY...
IT'S THEM! IT MUST BE!! HERE'S WHERE THEY GET THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!
TRY TO RUIN MY BUSINESS, WILL YOU?
I'LL BLAST HIM TO KINGDOM COME!
NO! NO KILLING, SMOKEY!
OKAY...BUT YA CAN'T OBJECT TO ME PLAYIN' TAPS ON HIS DOME!
OH!!
LOOK OUT! HE'S FALLING AGAINST THE RADIO BOX!
EVERY SIREN IN TOWN WILL START BLOWING NOW! WE WILL HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT THE BANK!
I'M TAKIN' THIS GUY ALONG--IN CASE HE RECOGNIZED US!

SIRENS LARGE AND SMALL... SHRILL AND DEEP-TONED... BLANKET THE CITY WITH EAR-SPLITTING SOUNDS AS THE ROBBERS' CAR SPEEDS AWAY!
I TOLD YA YER NOISE-MAKIN' WOULD QUEER THE SET-UP!! I OUGHTA---
TAKE IT EASY, SMOKEY!
HOW WAS I TO KNOW THIS FELLOW WOULD COME ALONG WHEN HE DID!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
IT AIN'T NOTHIN' TA WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF YA DON'T STEP LIVELY!
COME IN TO THE HOUSE...THE POLICE WON'T LOOK FOR US THERE!
SO THIS IS YER JOINT, EH?
THEN YOU'RE FELIX BLACK, THE MILLIONAIRE!!
AIN'T THAT JUST DUCKY?
WHAT IF I AM FELIX BLACK? YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO TELL THE POLICE!
NO, DIMWIT... AN' WE CAN'T AFFORD TO RISK OUR LIVES PULLIN' JOBS NEITHER...WHEN YOU CAN GIVE US ALL THE DOUGH WE'LL EVER NEED!
FOIST WE BUMP OFF DIS WISE GUY SO DERE WON'T BE NOBODY TO SQUEAL-- THEN WE TAKE OVER YER FINANCIAL TROUBLES!
STOP!! I WON'T STAND FOR ANY KILLINGS! I'LL---
I'LL--
YOU'LL WHAT, CHUM?
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
IT SEEMS THE MAN WHO NEVER SLEEPS HAS BEEN CAUGHT NAPPING... SO TO SPEAK! LIKE MANY ANOTHER BEFORE HIM, WHO HAS DREAMED OF BECOMING A MASTER OF CRIME, HE FINDS HIMSELF A VICTIM OF HIS OWN SCHEMING! AND AS FOR NICK PARKS, THE DROWSY YOUNG DETECTIVE -- MUST HE PAY WITH HIS LIFE FOR A SICK MAN'S FOLLY?

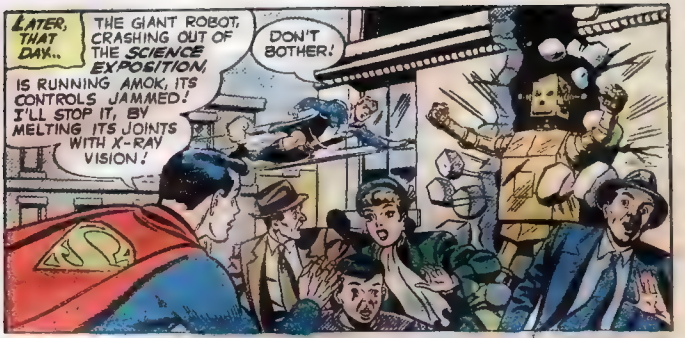

AND NOW LET US RETURN TO THE KEEN-EYED WATCHERS WE LEFT ON THEIR GARGOYLE PERCHES...
A MILLION SIRENS! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING--- BUT WHAT?
THAT SPEEDING CAR MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT--GET OUT YOUR WIREPOON GUN, SANDY--AND GET READY FOR THE LEAP OF YOUR LIFE!
INTO THE OVERHANGING LEDGE OF A DISTANT SKYSCRAPER THUD THE BARBED TIPS OF TWO WIRE-POONS---
IF YOU'D RATHER NOT RISK IT, SANDY---
DON'T BE SILLY! THINK I'D LET YOU TRY IT ALONE?
PLUNGING DOWNWARD WITH BLINDING SPEED... THE SHINING PAIR SWOOPS IN PURSUIT OF THE CAR!
TALK ABOUT THRILLS!!
SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR HANGING ON!
END OF THE LINE!
I HOPE!
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE HOUSE--BUT WHAT WOULD CROOKS BE DOING IN A MILLIONAIRE'S PLACE LIKE THIS?
IT'S FELIX BLACK'S HOME! HIS REPUTATION IS EXCELLENT... BUT IT SEEMS TO ME I REMEMBER READING SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM!
OF COURSE! HE'S THE MAN THE DOCTORS WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT WHEN THEY DISCOVERED HE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP SINCE HE WAS A BOY! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!
TO YOU, MAYBE! BUT I'LL STRING ALONG AND FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!

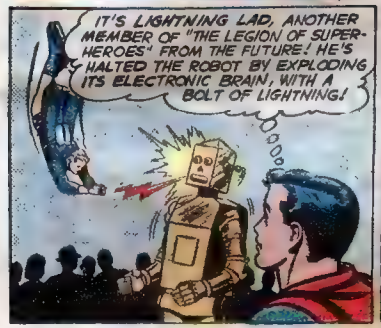
LET US RETURN TO FELIX BLACK'S LIBRARY, WHERE DEATH CROUCHES, READY TO POUNCE!
I'M GONNA PUT YA TO SLEEP, WISE GUY!
ALL THIS BECAUSE I TOOK A NAP WHEN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING AT MY DETECTIVE JOB! IT ISN'T FAIR!!
HE CALLS HIMSELF A DETECTIVE! HAWWW!!
BUT THE POUNCE OF ANOTHER IS SWIFTER!
IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEBODY SPOILED YOUR NIGHT, RATS!
TH' SANDMAN!
IN THAT CASE I'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP INSTEAD!
THANKS, DETECTIVE!
EVER READ UP ON CRIMINOLOGY? THIS BOOK IS CALLED HOW TO TREAT THE CRIMINAL... AND THIS ONE IS CRIME IS THE NATION'S HEADACHE!
IT'S A HEADACHE ALL RIGHT-- I DON'T LIKE 'EM!
OH, WELL...THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHERS--TAKE YOUR PICK!
HELP! HE'S MOIDERIN' ME!
NEED ANY HELP, SANDMAN?
I'LL LET YOU KNOW IN A MINUTE!
NO... I DON'T NEED ANY HELP!
BUT I DO, CHUM... I SURE DO!

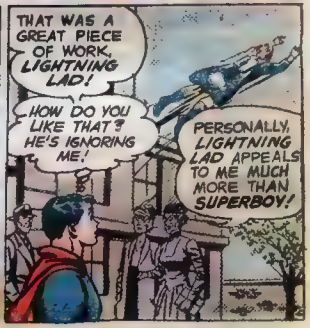
AS THE MAN WHO HAS STARTED IT ALL SEEMS AN EXIT... A SHOT ROARS OUT...
THIS WAS ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU CRAZY OLD FOOL... AND I'LL GET YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
IT'LL BE THE LAST THING YOU WILL EVER DO... OUTSIDE PRISON!
AND IF YOU'VE KILLED HIM, IT'LL BE THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
LATER...
But.... INSTEAD OF DEATH, THE GANGSTER'S BULLET SEEMS TO HAVE WROUGHT A MIRACLE!
IT'S AMAZING! THE BULLET ONLY GRAZED HIS SKULL! YET IT APPEARS TO HAVE AFFECTED THE NERVE IN HIS BRAIN THAT KEPT HIM FROM SLEEPING--HE'S RESTING NORMALLY!
...BUT I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW THE STRANGE WAY IN WHICH IT WORKS!
I'VE BEEN AN INSTRUMENT OF FATE FOR A LONG TIME...
I'VE SLEPT, DO YOU HEAR--? I'VE SLEPT! AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, SANDMAN! NAME ANY REWARD YOU CHOOSE!
I ONLY WANT YOUR PROMISE THAT YOU'LL NEVER DABBLE IN CRIME AGAIN!
CRIME? WHY SHOULD I BOTHER WITH IT NOW THAT I'M NORMAL? I'LL SERVE MY SENTENCE GLADLY--AND SLEEP MOST OF IT AWAY! THEN I'LL DEVOTE MY LEARNING TO BETTER THINGS!
IT SHOULDN'T BE A VERY STIFF SENTENCE, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT DROVE YOU TO THE EDGE OF MADNESS!
A FEW DAYS LATER, WES DOODS AND SANDY HAWKINS CALL ON AN OLD FRIEND...
MR. PARKS IS TERRIBLY BUSY--HE'S BEEN SWAMPED WITH CLIENTS EVER SINCE HE CAPTURED THOSE NOISE-MAKING CROOKS!
EVER SINCE WHO CAPTURED THOSE CROOKS?
NEVER MIND! WE'LL CALL AGAIN!
HE'LL HAVE TO STAY AWAKE TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT BUSINESS, EH, WES?
IT'S FUNNY--NICK SLEPT WHEN HE SHOULDN'T...AND HE'S GETTING RICH! BLACK HAD TO TURN TO CRIME TO LEARN TO SLEEP! YET, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAVE COME OUT RIGHT IN THE END!
NICK PARKS
WE NEVE
SLEEP
DETECTIVE AGENCY
BUT YOU'LL NEVER CATCH THE SANDMAN AND HIS NERVY YOUNG PAL SANDY SLEEPING WHILE EVIL PROWLS THE NIGHT! DON'T MISS THE HIGH-TENSION THRILLS OF THEIR NEWEST SMASHING TRIUMPH IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ADVENTURE!

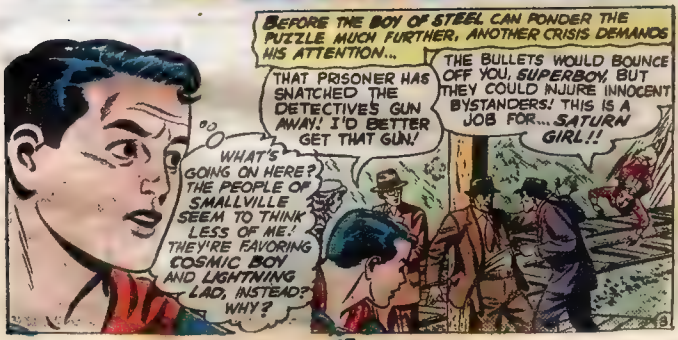
SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
ALAS, HOW FLEETING FAME IS, AND HOW FICKLE THE PUBLIC! TODAY, YOU MAY BE WILDLY CHEERED AS A SUPER-HERO...BUT TOMORROW, YOU MAY BE SNEERED AT AS A FLOP! BUT SURELY, A CRUEL FATE SUCH AS THIS COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAPPEN TO THE BOY OF STEEL! OR COULD IT?? SUPERBOY LEARNS SOME HARD, HARSH FACTS OF LIFE WHEN SMALLVILLE TURNS ITS BACK ON HIM! SADDENED AND HURT, HE DEPARTS FROM THE PLANET EARTH, AND ENCOUNTERS AN EVEN WORSE FATE WHEN.. HE BECOMES...
PRISONER OF THE SUPER-HEROES!
WOW! LOOK AT THOSE THREE SUPER-YOUTHS FROM THE FUTURE, WITH ONLY ONE SUPER-POWER EACH, OVERPOWERING THAT RAMPAGING MONSTER! THEY'RE... TERRIFIC!
PERHAPS I'D BETTER HELP!
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU WERE SMALLVILLE'S GREATEST SUPER-HERO... ONCE...BUT WHO NEEDS YOU NOW?!!
ART BY GEORGE PAPP
COLORS: JERRY SERPE

WHILE ON PATROL AT THE SMALLVILLE AIRPORT, ONE DAY, SUPERBOY SIGHTS AN IMPENDING DISASTER...
THAT AIRLINER IS GOING TO CRASH! I'LL SLOW ITS DOWNWARD PLUNGE WITH SOME POWERFUL GUSTS OF MY SUPER-BREATH!
ROUGHLY, THE BOY OF STEEL IS SHOVED ASIDE...
OUT OF MY WAY, SUPERBOY! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
IT'S COSMIC BOY... A MEMBER OF "THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES," FROM THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE! I MET HIM AND HIS FELLOW MEMBERS IN A STIRRING ADVENTURE OVER A YEAR AGO, WHEN THEY TRAVELLED INTO THE PAST TO VISIT ME IN SMALLVILLE!
HE'S SLOWLY LOWERING THE FALLING SHIP BY BUOYING IT UP WITH REVERSE-MAGNETISM RAYS FROM HIS MAGNETIC EYES!
GOOD WORK, COSMIC BOY! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
SORRY I CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
HE... GAVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER! I... I WONDER WHY?
S'MATTER, SUPERBOY? DOES THE IDEA OF A RIVAL SCARE YOU?
HA! HE'S JEALOUS BECAUSE ANOTHER YOUNG SUPER-HERO STOLE THE SHOW FROM HIM!
"THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHAT'S THE USE! THE MORE I DENY IT, THE LESS I'LL BE BELIEVED!

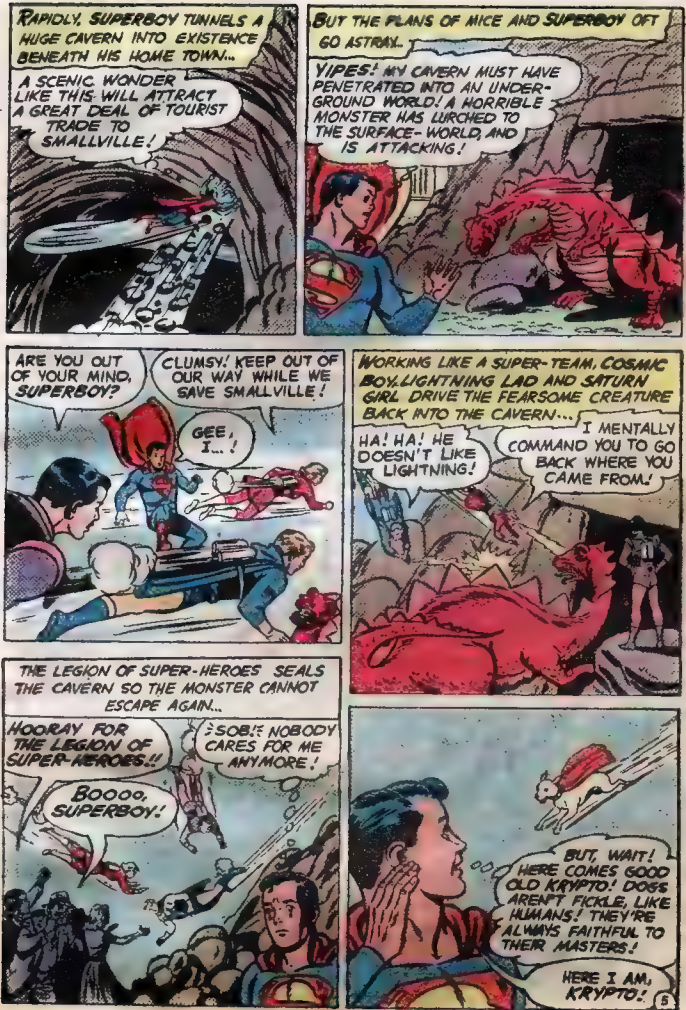

LATER, THAT DAY..
THE GIANT ROBOT, CRASHING OUT OF THE SCIENCE EXPOSITION, IS RUNNING AMOK, ITS CONTROLS JAMMED! I'LL STOP IT, BY MELTING ITS JOINTS WITH X-RAY VISION!
DON'T BOTHER!


IT'S LIGHTNING LAD, ANOTHER MEMBER OF "THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES" FROM THE FUTURE! HE'S HALTED THE ROBOT BY EXPLODING ITS ELECTRONIC BRAIN, WITH A BOLT OF LIGHTNING!

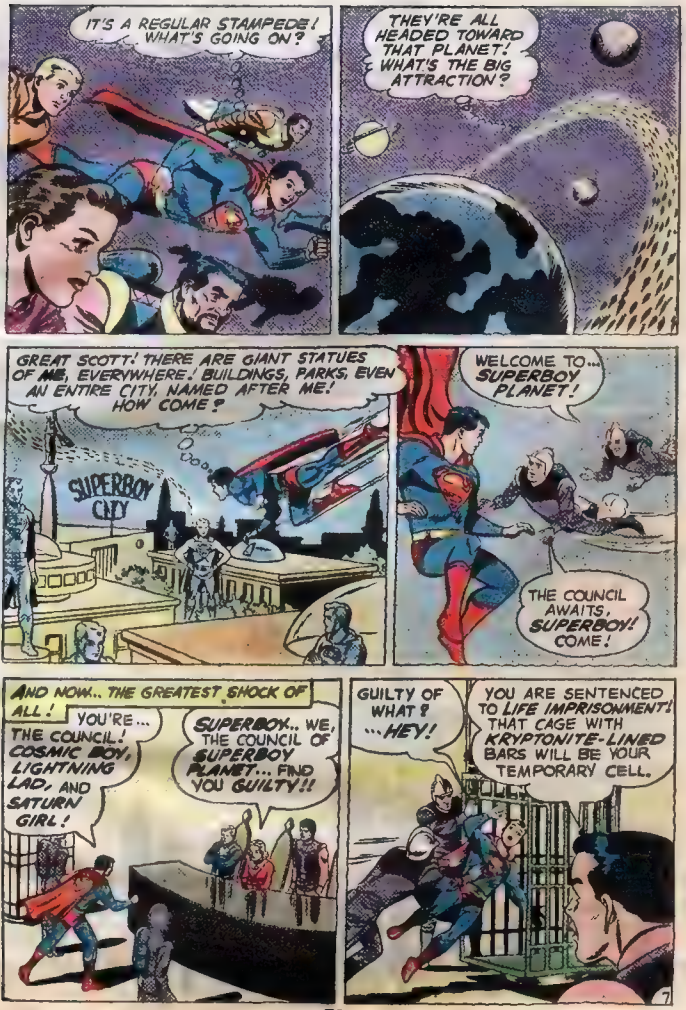

THAT WAS A GREAT PIECE OF WORK, LIGHTNING LAD!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? HE'S IGNORING ME!
PERSONALLY, LIGHTNING LAD APPEALS TO ME MUCH MORE THAN SUPERBOY!

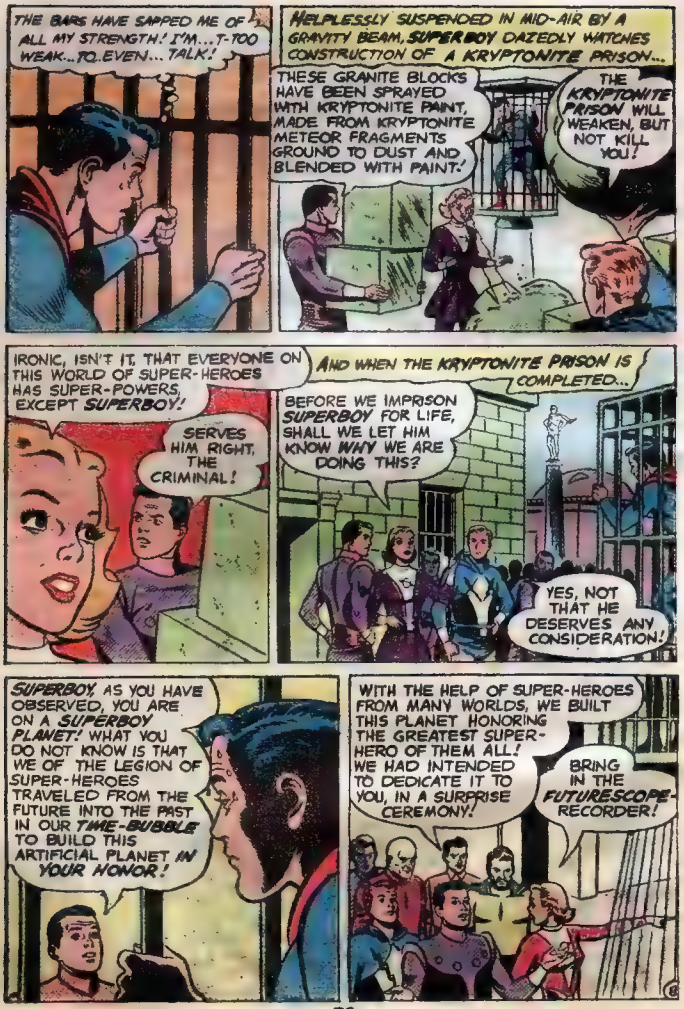

BEFORE THE BOY OF STEEL CAN PONDER THE PUZZLE MUCH FURTHER, ANOTHER CRISIS DEMANDS HIS ATTENTION...
THAT PRISONER HAS SNATCHED THE DETECTIVE'S GUN AWAY! I'D BETTER GET THAT GUN!
THE BULLETS WOULD BOUNCE OFF YOU, SUPERBOY, BUT THEY COULD INJURE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS! THIS IS A JOB FOR... SATURN GIRL!!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THE PEOPLE OF SMALLVILLE SEEM TO THINK LESS OF ME! THEY'RE FAVORING COSMIC BOY AND LIGHTNING LAD, INSTEAD? WHY?

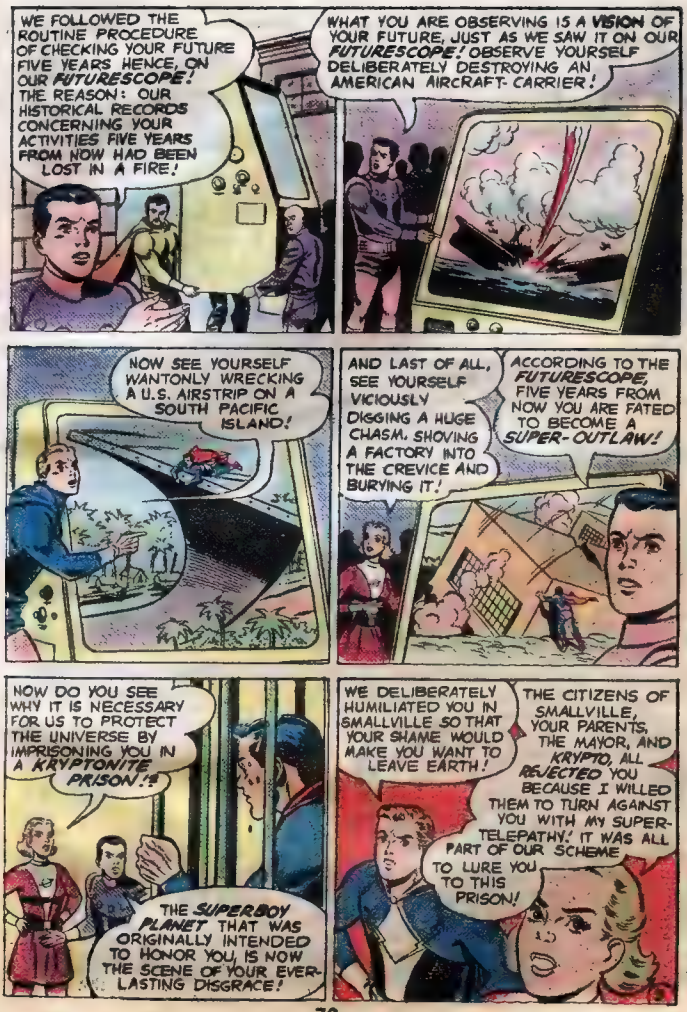
CONCENTRATING MIGHTILY, SATURN GIRL BEAMS A MENTAL COMMAND TO THE CRIMINAL...
THAT IS NOT A GUN IN YOUR HAND! IT'S A COBRA! DROP IT!
GA-AAA!
HUH? THE GUN ...THAT TURNED INTO A COBRA... HAS TURNED BACK INTO A GUN AGAIN!
WHAT COBRA??- THAT STRANGE GIRL MUST'VE PLAYED TRICKS WITH YOUR MIND! DON'T MOVE!
NICE GOING, SATURN GIRL!
WHO ASKED YOU? KINDLY KEEP YOUR UNWANTED OPINION TO YOURSELF!
AMAZINGLY, THE CITIZENS OF SMALLVILLE WHO HAD FORMERLY ADMIRED THE BOY OF STEEL, NOW HOOT AND JEER AT HIM...
YA-YA! YOU AIN'T SO HOT!
THOSE SUPER-KIDS FROM THE FUTURE HAVE GOT IT ALL OVER YOU, SUPERBOY!
EVEN MA AND PA KENT ARE LACKING IN SYMPATHY...
SO YOU'RE SLIPPING, EH? THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO WHINE!
I'M NOT WHINING! I JUST THOUGHT. MAYBE I'D AT LEAST GET A KIND WORD FROM MY OWN PARENTS!
NOBODY LIKES ME ANYMORE!
GRIMLY, SUPERBOY STREAKS INTO ACTION...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN GET THE PEOPLE IN SMALLVILLE TO ADMIRE ME, AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC!


RAPIDLY, SUPERBOY TUNNELS A HUGE CAVERN INTO EXISTENCE BENEATH HIS HOME TOWN...
A SCENIC WONDER LIKE THIS WILL ATTRACT A GREAT DEAL OF TOURIST TRADE TO SMALLVILLE!
BUT THE PLANS OF MICE AND SUPERBOY OFT GO ASTRAY...
YIPES! MY CAVERN MUST HAVE PENETRATED INTO AN UNDERGROUND WORLD! A HORRIBLE MONSTER HAS LURCHED TO THE SURFACE-WORLD, AND IS ATTACKING!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, SUPERBOY?
CLUMSY! KEEP OUT OF OUR WAY WHILE WE SAVE SMALLVILLE!
GEE, I... !
WORKING LIKE A SUPER-TEAM, COSMIC BOY, LIGHTNING LAD AND SATURN GIRL DRIVE THE FEARSOME CREATURE BACK INTO THE CAVERN...
HA! HA! HE DOESN'T LIKE LIGHTNING!
I MENTALLY COMMAND YOU TO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES SEALS THE CAVERN SO THE MONSTER CANNOT ESCAPE AGAIN...
HOORAY FOR THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!!
SOB!! NOBODY CARES FOR ME ANYMORE!
BOOOO, SUPERBOY!
BUT, WAIT! HERE COMES GOOD OLD KRYPTO! DOGS AREN'T FICKLE, LIKE HUMANS! THEY'RE ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THEIR MASTERS!
HERE I AM, KRYPTO!
5

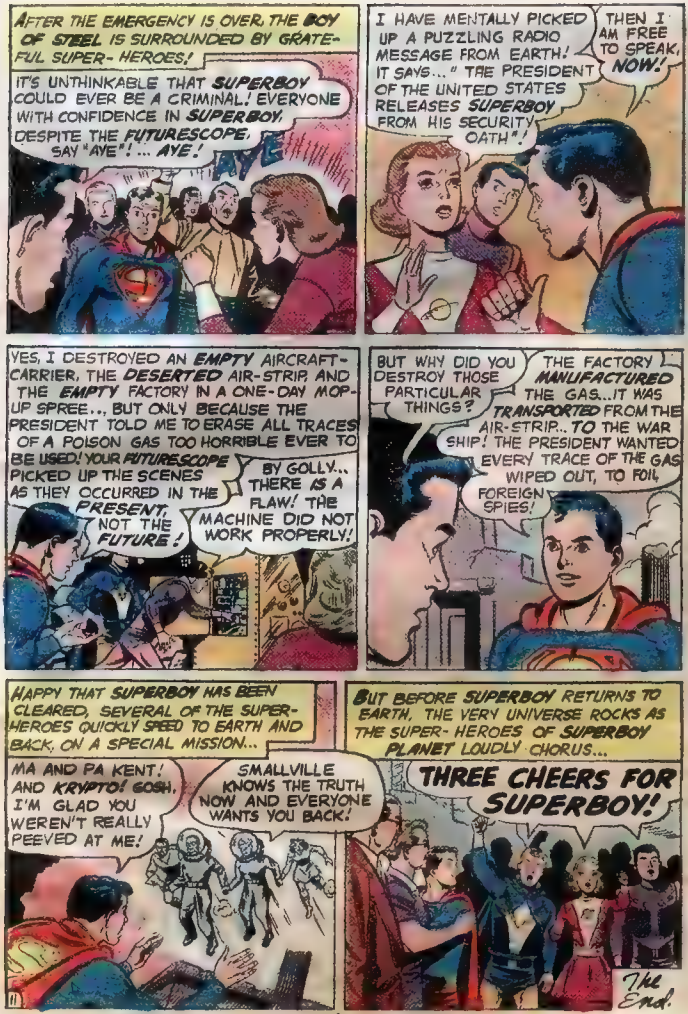
AND NOW, THE CRUELEST BLOW OF ALL, AS THE DOG OF STEEL SNUBS THE BOY OF STEEL...
ULP! HE ZIPPED RIGHT PAST ME! HE'S MAKING A BIG HAPPY FUSS OVER... GULP! MY THREE RIVALS!
CRUSHED, SUPERBOY CALLS ON SMALLVILLE'S MAYOR...
YOUR HONOR! I'VE DONE A LOT FOR SMALLVILLE IN THE PAST! PLEASE TELL ME THE TRUTH! SHALL I STAY ON?
FRANKLY, WE DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE! COSMIC BOY, SATURN GIRL AND LIGHTNING BOY CAN KEEP THINGS SAFE IN TOWN! THREE HEROES ARE BETTER THAN ONE! YOU GET WHAT I MEAN?
DESPERATELY, SUPERBOY TURNS ONCE AGAIN TO HIS FOSTER-PARENTS FOR COMFORTING WORDS. BUT...
THOSE OTHER THREE SUPER-CHARACTERS HAVE MADE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL! I'M ASHAMED OF YOU! I-I WISH I COULD SEND YOU BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE!
EVEN MY PARENTS HAVE TURNED AGAINST ME!
LATER, WITH HEAVY HEART, SUPERBOY TAKES ONE LONG LAST LOOK AT THE TOWN WHICH HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO HIM...
GOODBYE, SMALLVILLE! I'M EXILING MYSELF FROM EARTH BECAUSE I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME ANYMORE... BUT...I-I'LL ALWAYS TREASURE... CERTAIN MEMORIES...
SOON, IN SPACE...
HOLY MACKEREL! A CROWD OF SUPER-BEINGS IS FLYING THROUGH SPACE, ALL HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION! I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE GOING??
6

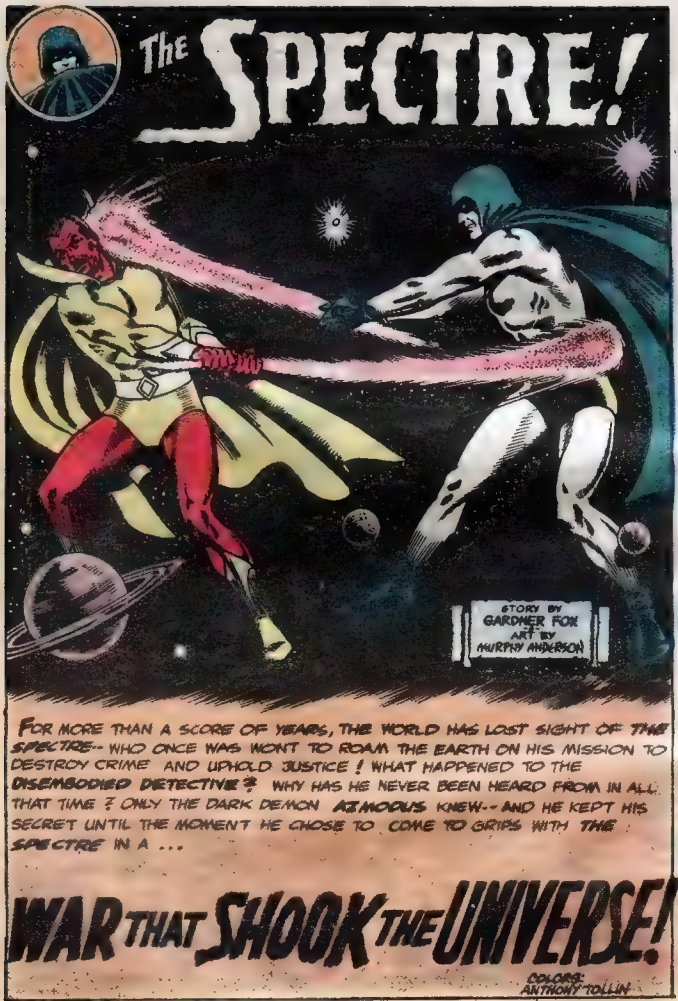

IT'S A REGULAR STAMPEDE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE ALL HEADED TOWARD THAT PLANET! WHAT'S THE BIG ATTRACTION?
GREAT SCOTT! THERE ARE GIANT STATUES OF ME, EVERYWHERE! BUILDINGS, PARKS, EVEN AN ENTIRE CITY, NAMED AFTER ME! HOW COME?
SUPERBOY CITY
WELCOME TO... SUPERBOY PLANET!
THE COUNCIL AWAITS, SUPERBOY! COME!
AND NOW.. THE GREATEST SHOCK OF ALL!
YOU'RE... THE COUNCIL! COSMIC BOY, LIGHTNING LAD, AND SATURN GIRL!
SUPERBOY.. WE, THE COUNCIL OF SUPERBOY PLANET... FIND YOU GUILTY!!
GUILTY OF WHAT? ...HEY!
YOU ARE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT! THAT CAGE WITH KRYPTONITE-LINED BARS WILL BE YOUR TEMPORARY CELL.
7


THE BARS HAVE SAPPED ME OF ALL MY STRENGTH! I'M...T-TOO WEAK...TO..EVEN... TALK!
HELPLESSLY SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR BY A GRAVITY BEAM, SUPERBOY DAZEDLY WATCHES CONSTRUCTION OF A KRYPTONITE PRISON...
THESE GRANITE BLOCKS HAVE BEEN SPRAYED WITH KRYPTONITE PAINT, MADE FROM KRYPTONITE METEOR FRAGMENTS GROUND TO DUST AND BLENDED WITH PAINT!
THE KRYPTONITE PRISON WILL WEAKEN, BUT NOT KILL YOU!
IRONIC, ISN'T IT, THAT EVERYONE ON THIS WORLD OF SUPER-HEROES HAS SUPER-POWERS, EXCEPT SUPERBOY!
SERVES HIM RIGHT, THE CRIMINAL!
AND WHEN THE KRYPTONITE PRISON IS COMPLETED...
BEFORE WE IMPRISON SUPERBOY FOR LIFE, SHALL WE LET HIM KNOW WHY WE ARE DOING THIS?
YES, NOT THAT HE DESERVES ANY CONSIDERATION!
SUPERBOY, AS YOU HAVE OBSERVED, YOU ARE ON A SUPERBOY PLANET! WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW IS THAT WE OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES TRAVELED FROM THE FUTURE INTO THE PAST IN OUR TIME-BUBBLE TO BUILD THIS ARTIFICIAL PLANET IN YOUR HONOR!
WITH THE HELP OF SUPER-HEROES FROM MANY WORLDS, WE BUILT THIS PLANET HONORING THE GREATEST SUPER-HERO OF THEM ALL! WE HAD INTENDED TO DEDICATE IT TO YOU, IN A SURPRISE CEREMONY!
BRING IN THE FUTURESCOPE RECORDER!

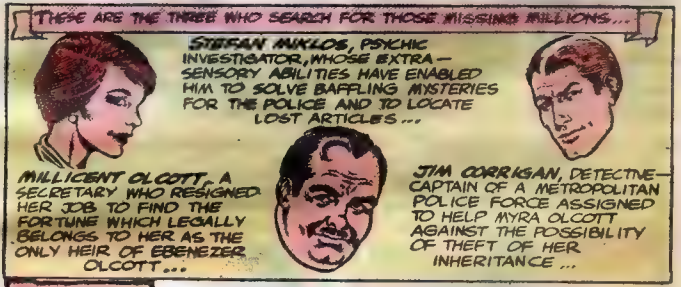

WE FOLLOWED THE ROUTINE PROCEDURE OF CHECKING YOUR FUTURE FIVE YEARS HENCE, ON OUR FUTURESCOPE! THE REASON: OUR HISTORICAL RECORDS CONCERNING YOUR ACTIVITIES FIVE YEARS FROM NOW HAD BEEN LOST IN A FIRE!
WHAT YOU ARE OBSERVING IS A VISION OF YOUR FUTURE, JUST AS WE SAW IT ON OUR FUTURESCOPE! OBSERVE YOURSELF DELIBERATELY DESTROYING AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT-CARRIER!
NOW SEE YOURSELF WANTONLY WRECKING A U.S. AIRSTRIP ON A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND!
AND LAST OF ALL, SEE YOURSELF VICIOUSLY DIGGING A HUGE CHASM, SHOVING A FACTORY INTO THE CREVICE AND BURYING IT!
ACCORDING TO THE FUTURESCOPE, FIVE YEARS FROM NOW YOU ARE FATED TO BECOME A SUPER-OUTLAW!
NOW DO YOU SEE WHY IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE BY IMPRISONING YOU IN A KRYPTONITE PRISON!?
THE SUPERBOY PLANET THAT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO HONOR YOU, IS NOW THE SCENE OF YOUR EVER-LASTING DISGRACE!
WE DELIBERATELY HUMILIATED YOU IN SMALLVILLE SO THAT YOUR SHAME WOULD MAKE YOU WANT TO LEAVE EARTH!
THE CITIZENS OF SMALLVILLE, YOUR PARENTS, THE MAYOR, AND KRYPTO, ALL REJECTED YOU BECAUSE I WILLED THEM TO TURN AGAINST YOU WITH MY SUPER-TELEPATHY! IT WAS ALL PART OF OUR SCHEME TO LURE YOU TO THIS PRISON!

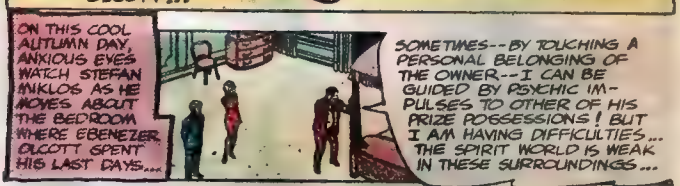
SUPERBOY, NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHY WE ARE DOING THIS TO YOU, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO SAY IN YOUR OWN DEFENSE?
HE...REMAINS ...SILENT! INTO THE PRISON, WITH HIM!
SADLY, THE SUPER-HEROES OF SUPER-BOY PLANET SILENTLY WATCH AS THE BOY OF STEEL THEY HAD FORMERLY ADMIRED, IS IMPRISONED FOR LIFE!
DAYS LATER, ONE OF THE AMAZING SUPER-BOY TROPHIES EXPLODES...LAUNCHING AN ATOMIC CHAIN REACTION...AND AS THE KRYPTONITE PRISON COLLAPSES, SUPERBOY ESCAPES, HIS SUPER-POWERS RETURNING...
THE LANDSCAPE...THE PRISON...EVERYTHING'S TURNING BLUE! AND I HEAR... MOANS!
INVESTIGATING, THE BOY OF STEEL DISCOVERS...
OHHH... THE EXPLOSION ...UN-LEASHED...ELEMENT SIGELLIAN:... WHICH IS AS DEADLY TO US, AS KRYPTONITE IS TO SUPERBOY!... ITS RADIATIONS... WILL KILL...US!
HELP US, SUPERBOY!
AMAZINGLY, SUPERBOY BATTLES THE SUPER-MENACE WITH A SUPER-SHOUT!
YAAH!
I'M UNABLE TO WORK THIS SAME STUNT ON KRYPTONITE, BECAUSE NEARNESS TO KRYPTONITE MAKES ME TOO WEAK TO SHOUT!
PRESENTLY...
I...FEEL FINE, AGAIN!
THE VIBRATIONS OF SUPER-BOY'S VOICE CHANGED THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF ELEMENT SIGELLIAN, RENDERING IT HARMLESS!
10

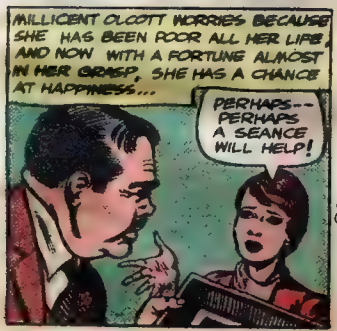

AFTER THE EMERGENCY IS OVER, THE BOY OF STEEL IS SURROUNDED BY GRATEFUL SUPER-HEROES!
IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT SUPERBOY COULD EVER BE A CRIMINAL! EVERYONE WITH CONFIDENCE IN SUPERBOY, DESPITE THE FUTURESCOPE, SAY "AYE"! ... AYE!
AYE
I HAVE MENTALLY PICKED UP A PUZZLING RADIO MESSAGE FROM EARTH! IT SAYS..." THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RELEASES SUPERBOY FROM HIS SECURITY OATH"!
THEN I AM FREE TO SPEAK, NOW!
YES, I DESTROYED AN EMPTY AIRCRAFT-CARRIER, THE DESERTED AIR-STRIP, AND THE EMPTY FACTORY IN A ONE-DAY MOP-UP SPREE... BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME TO ERASE ALL TRACES OF A POISON GAS TOO HORRIBLE EVER TO BE USED! YOUR FUTURESCOPE PICKED UP THE SCENES AS THEY OCCURRED IN THE PRESENT, NOT THE FUTURE!
BY GOLLY... THERE IS A FLAW! THE MACHINE DID NOT WORK PROPERLY!
BUT WHY DID YOU DESTROY THOSE PARTICULAR THINGS?
THE FACTORY MANUFACTURED THE GAS...IT WAS TRANSPORTED FROM THE AIR-STRIP... TO THE WAR SHIP! THE PRESIDENT WANTED EVERY TRACE OF THE GAS WIPED OUT, TO FOIL FOREIGN SPIES!
HAPPY THAT SUPERBOY HAS BEEN CLEARED, SEVERAL OF THE SUPER-HEROES QUICKLY SPEED TO EARTH AND BACK, ON A SPECIAL MISSION...
MA AND PA KENT! AND KRYPTO! GOSH, I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T REALLY PEEVED AT ME!
SMALLVILLE KNOWS THE TRUTH NOW AND EVERYONE WANTS YOU BACK!
BUT BEFORE SUPERBOY RETURNS TO EARTH, THE VERY UNIVERSE ROCKS AS THE SUPER-HEROES OF SUPERBOY PLANET LOUDLY CHORUS...
THREE CHEERS FOR SUPERBOY!
The End.

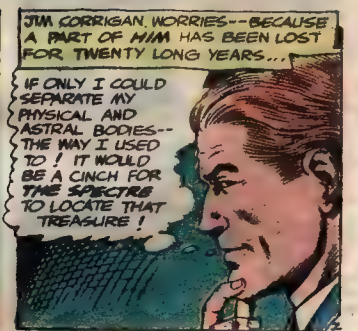

The SPECTRE!
STORY BY
GARDNER FOX
ART BY
MURPHY ANDERSON
FOR MORE THAN A SCORE OF YEARS, THE WORLD HAS LOST SIGHT OF THE SPECTRE-- WHO ONCE WAS WONT TO ROAM THE EARTH ON HIS MISSION TO DESTROY CRIME AND UPHOLD JUSTICE! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISEMBODIED DETECTIVE? WHY HAS HE NEVER BEEN HEARD FROM IN ALL THAT TIME? ONLY THE DARK DEMON AZMODUS KNEW-- AND HE KEPT HIS SECRET UNTIL THE MOMENT HE CHOSE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SPECTRE IN A ...
WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE!
COLORS:
ANTHONY TOLLIN

THIS IS TREASURE CASTLE--
WHERE THE RECENTLY DECEASED MILLIONAIRE EBENEZER OLCOTT AMASSED--AND HID--A FORTUNE...


THESE ARE THE THREE WHO SEARCH FOR THOSE MISSING MILLIONS...
STEFAN MIKLOS, PSYCHIC INVESTIGATOR, WHOSE EXTRA-SENSORY ABILITIES HAVE ENABLED HIM TO SOLVE BAFFLING MYSTERIES FOR THE POLICE AND TO LOCATE LOST ARTICLES...
MILLICENT OLCOTT, A SECRETARY WHO RESIGNED HER JOB TO FIND THE FORTUNE WHICH LEGALLY BELONGS TO HER AS THE ONLY HEIR OF EBENEZER OLCOTT...
JIM CORRIGAN, DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN OF A METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE ASSIGNED TO HELP MYRA OLCOTT AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THEFT OF HER INHERITANCE...


ON THIS COOL AUTUMN DAY, ANXIOUS EYES WATCH STEFAN MIKLOS AS HE MOVES ABOUT THE BEDROOM WHERE EBENEZER OLCOTT SPENT HIS LAST DAYS...
SOMETIMES--BY TOUCHING A PERSONAL BELONGING OF THE OWNER--I CAN BE GUIDED BY PSYCHIC IMPULSES TO OTHER OF HIS PRIZE POSSESSIONS! BUT I AM HAVING DIFFICULTIES... THE SPIRIT WORLD IS WEAK IN THESE SURROUNDINGS...


MILLICENT OLCOTT WORRIES BECAUSE SHE HAS BEEN POOR ALL HER LIFE, AND NOW WITH A FORTUNE ALMOST IN HER GRASP, SHE HAS A CHANCE AT HAPPINESS...
PERHAPS--PERHAPS A SEANCE WILL HELP!


JIM CORRIGAN WORRIES--BECAUSE A PART OF HIM HAS BEEN LOST FOR TWENTY LONG YEARS...
IF ONLY I COULD SEPARATE MY PHYSICAL AND ASTRAL BODIES--THE WAY I USED TO! IT WOULD BE A CINCH FOR THE SPECTRE TO LOCATE THAT TREASURE!

A NOTE OF HOPE SPRINGS INTO STEFAN MIKLOS' VOICE...
A SEANCE? A GATHERING OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES THROUGH A MEDIUM? Hmmm! YES, IT COULD STRENGTHEN THE EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS IN ME SO THAT THE HIDDEN WINDOWS OF MY PSYCHE WOULD OPEN AND REVEAL THE TRUTH!
LET'S ARRANGE IT AT ONCE!
THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES LINGERS A MOMENT, RELIVING THOSE EXCITING DAYS WHEN HE WAS ALSO THE SPECTRE.. GRIM GUARDIAN OF JUSTICE, DARK DESTROYER OF CRIME...
I JUST WISH I COULD BECOME THE SPECTRE AGAIN--THAT EASILY!
HE RECALLS HOW HE USED TO STRIDE ACROSS THE WORLD, A POWERFUL PHANTOM AGAINST WHOM THE FORCES OF EVIL COULD NOT SURVIVE! HIS WAS A MISSION OF MORALS, TO BALANCE THE SCALES AGAINST THE CRIMINALS WHO PREYED UPON THE WEAK AND HELPLESS...

THE FOLLOWING DAY, A CRYSTAL BALL GLOWS IN A DARKENED ROOM AS THE MUTED VOICE OF A MEDIUM DRONES ON. IN THE HUSH OF EXPECTANCY, AN ELECTRIC EXCITEMENT FLOWS THROUGH THE CLASPED HANDS OF THE GATHERED CLIENTS...

I CALL UPON THE SPIRITS! A WOMAN SEEKS TO FIND LOST MONEY! HELP HER, DISCARNATE BODIES!

EVEN AS THAT SUMMONS TO THE SPIRIT WORLD IS MADE--JIM CORRIGAN'S EYES OPEN WIDE! NOT FOR TWENTY LONG YEARS HAS HE EXPERIENCED THIS STRANGE NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN EMOTION..

THE SPELL THAT HAS HELD ME IMMOBILE IN MY PHYSICAL BODY HAS LIFTED AT LAST! I CAN FEEL MYSELF DIVIDING INTO TWO PERSONALITIES!

AT THIS MYSTICAL MOMENT- A POWERFUL LIMOUSINE ROARS PAST THE APARTMENT WHERE THE SEANCE IS BEING HELD...

CORRIGAN'S RUBBED US THE WRONG WAY LONG ENOUGH!

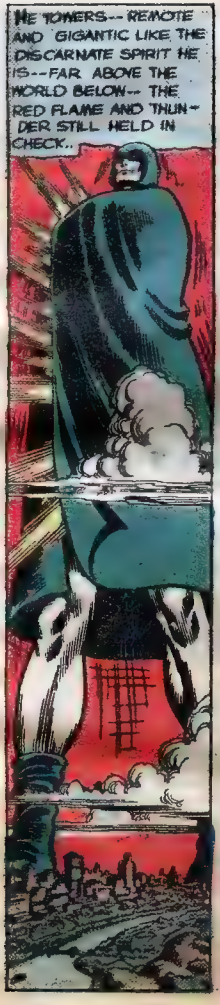
A HAND MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING COBRA--AND A SMALL, POWER-PACKED BOMB HURTLES STRAIGHT FOR THE SEANCE WINDOW...

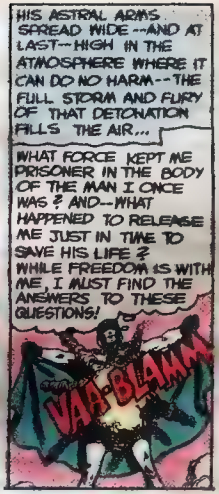
HERE'S WHERE WE RUB HIM OUT!

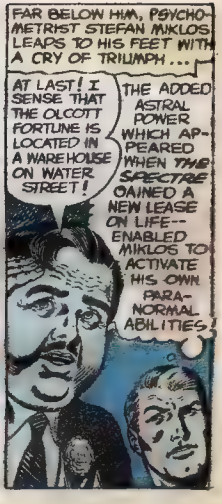
INSIDE THE SEANCE ROOM, THAT EERIE BEING KNOWN AS **THE SPECTRE** STIRS TO LIFE! SWIFTLY HE RISES UPWARD FROM THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A SCORE OF YEARS...

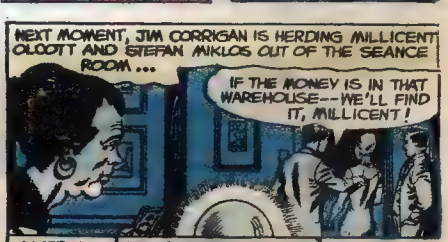
I SENSE DANGER!

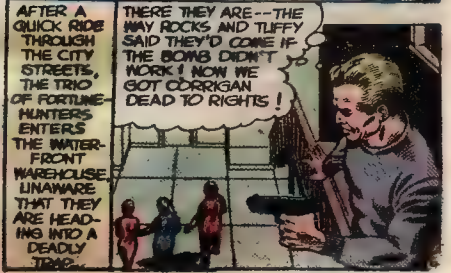
THE ASTRAL PROJECTION OF THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES SPEEDS TOWARD THAT WINDOW WITH THE SENSE OF DOOM STRONG UPON HIM...
ANOTHER MOMENT AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE TO ACT!
IN THAT SUSPENDED MOMENT OF EXPLOSION HE HURTLES UPWARD, STRETCHING TALLER AND TALLER, LOOMING ABOVE THE CITY FAR BELOW, STILL CLINGING TO THAT AWESOME FORCE, CONTAINING IT WITHIN HIS WIDESPREAD CAPE...
THE BOMB WAS AIMED AT MY ALTER EGO--JIM CORRIGAN! I CAN SENSE THE EVIL STILL CLINGING TO IT LIKE A TERRIBLE AURA!
HIS ARMS SPREAD WIDE! HIS CAPE OPENS TO FORM A CUSHIONING BARRIER AGAINST THE MUSHROOMING EXPLOSION OF THAT HIGH-POWERED BOMB!..
VA-BAAM!
SWIFTLY HE CLOSES THOSE SPIRIT ARMS AND HOLDS IN CHECK THE MUFFLED DETONATION OF ACTIVATED EXPLOSIVE AND THE DESTRUCTIVE FURY OF MIGHTY SHOCK WAVES!...
TIME STAND STILL ABOUT ME!
MMM-MMM

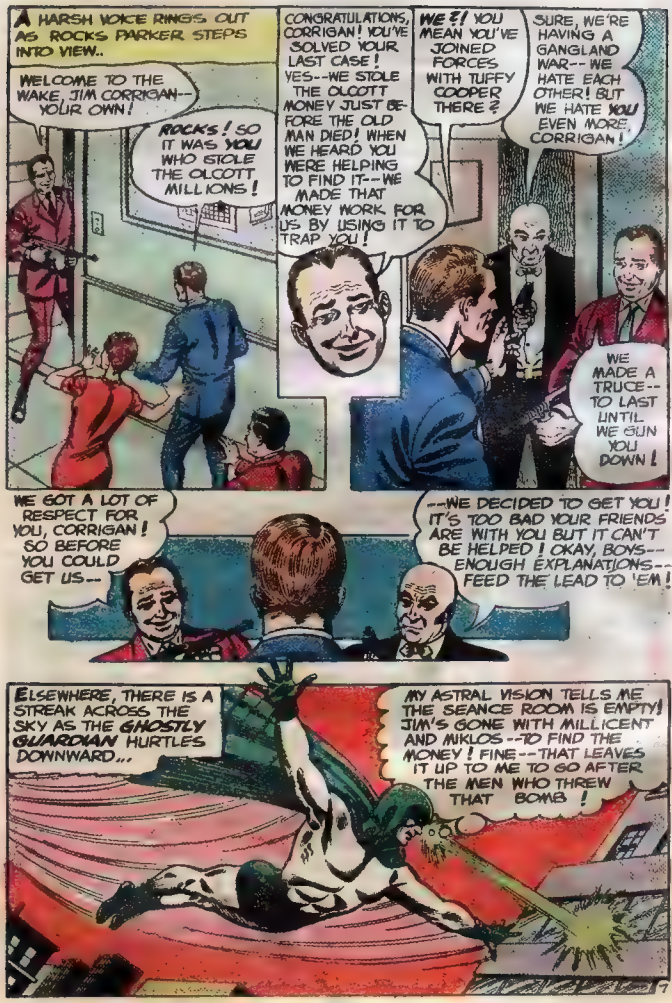

HE TOWERS-- REMOTE AND GIGANTIC LIKE THE DISCARNATE SPIRIT HE IS--FAR ABOVE THE WORLD BELOW-- THE RED FLAME AND THUNDER STILL HELD IN CHECK..

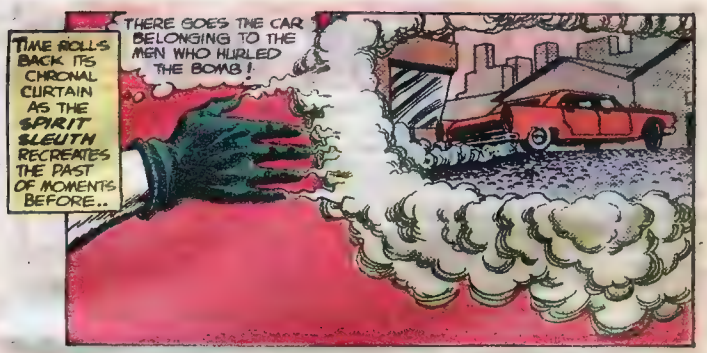

HIS ASTRAL ARMS SPREAD WIDE--AND AT LAST--HIGH IN THE ATMOSPHERE WHERE IT CAN DO NO HARM--THE FULL STORM AND FURY OF THAT DETONATION FILLS THE AIR...
WHAT FORCE KEPT ME PRISONER IN THE BODY OF THE MAN I ONCE WAS? AND--WHAT HAPPENED TO RELEASE ME JUST IN TIME TO SAVE HIS LIFE? WHILE FREEDOM IS WITH ME, I MUST FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS!
VAA-BLAMM

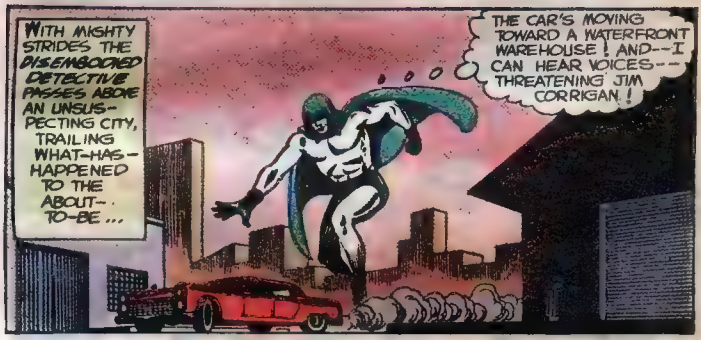

FAR BELOW HIM, PSYCHOMETRIST STEFAN MIKLOS LEAPS TO HIS FEET WITH A CRY OF TRIUMPH...
AT LAST! I SENSE THAT THE OLCOTT FORTUNE IS LOCATED IN A WAREHOUSE ON WATER STREET!
THE ADDED ASTRAL POWER WHICH APPEARED WHEN THE SPECTRE GAINED A NEW LEASE ON LIFE--ENABLED MIKLOS TO ACTIVATE HIS OWN PARANORMAL ABILITIES

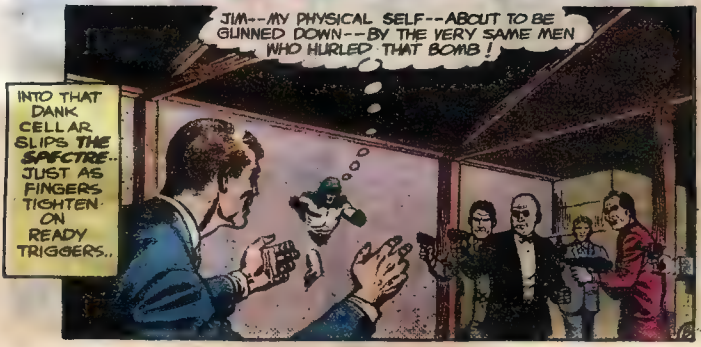

NEXT MOMENT, JIM CORRIGAN IS HERDING MILLICENT OLCOTT AND STEFAN MIKLOS OUT OF THE SEANCE ROOM...
IF THE MONEY IS IN THAT WAREHOUSE--WE'LL FIND IT, MILLICENT!


AFTER A QUICK RIDE THROUGH THE CITY STREETS, THE TRIO OF FORTUNE-HUNTERS ENTERS THE WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE HEADING INTO A DEADLY TRAP...
THERE THEY ARE--THE WAY ROCKS AND TUFFY SAID THEY'D COME IF THE BOMB DIDN'T WORK! NOW WE GOT CORRIGAN DEAD TO RIGHTS!


A HARSH VOICE RINGS OUT AS ROCKS PARKER STEPS INTO VIEW..
WELCOME TO THE WAKE, JIM CORRIGAN--YOUR OWN!
ROCKS! SO IT WAS YOU WHO STOLE THE OLCOTT MILLIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS, CORRIGAN! YOU'VE SOLVED YOUR LAST CASE! YES--WE STOLE THE OLCOTT MONEY JUST BEFORE THE OLD MAN DIED! WHEN WE HEARD YOU WERE HELPING TO FIND IT--WE MADE THAT MONEY WORK FOR US BY USING IT TO TRAP YOU!
WE?! YOU MEAN YOU'VE JOINED FORCES WITH TUFFY COOPER THERE?
SURE, WE'RE HAVING A GANGLAND WAR--WE HATE EACH OTHER! BUT WE HATE YOU EVEN MORE, CORRIGAN!
WE MADE A TRUCE--TO LAST UNTIL WE GUN YOU DOWN!
WE GOT A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, CORRIGAN! SO BEFORE YOU COULD GET US--
--WE DECIDED TO GET YOU! IT'S TOO BAD YOUR FRIENDS ARE WITH YOU BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! OKAY, BOYS--ENOUGH EXPLANATIONS--FEED THE LEAD TO 'EM!
ELSEWHERE, THERE IS A STREAK ACROSS THE SKY AS THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN HURTLES DOWNWARD...
MY ASTRAL VISION TELLS ME THE SEANCE ROOM IS EMPTY! JIM'S GONE WITH MILLICENT AND MIKLOS--TO FIND THE MONEY! FINE--THAT LEAVES IT UP TO ME TO GO AFTER THE MEN WHO THREW THAT BOMB!

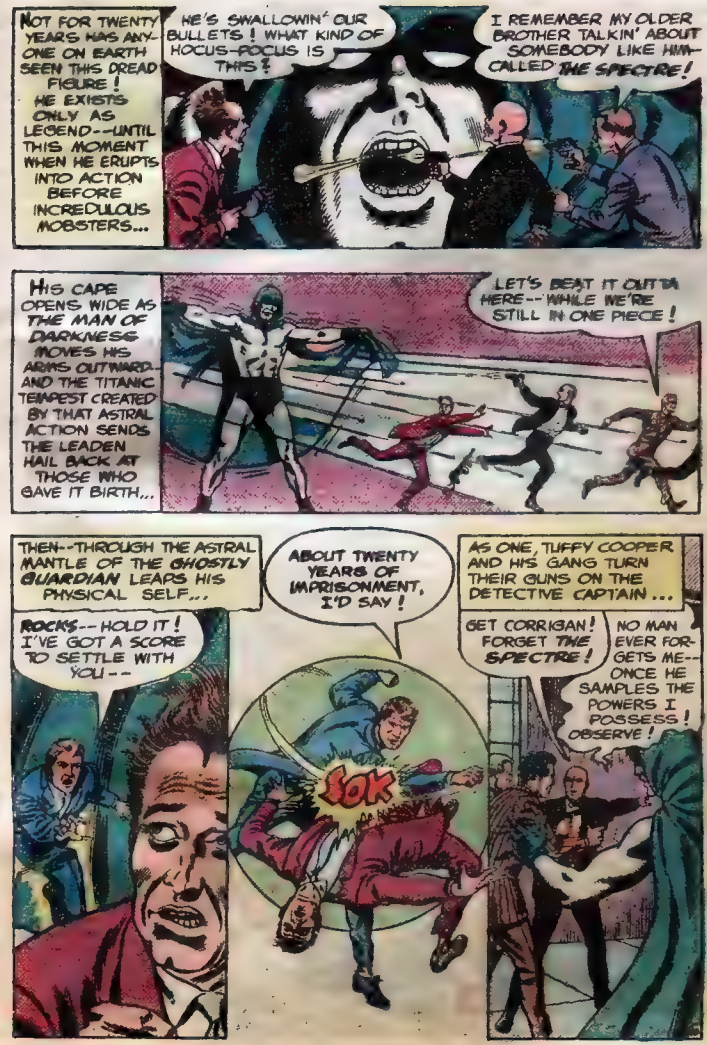

TIME ROLLS BACK ITS CHRONAL CURTAIN AS THE SPIRIT SLEUTH RECREATES THE PAST OF MOMENTS BEFORE..
THERE GOES THE CAR BELONGING TO THE MEN WHO HURLED THE BOMB!


WITH MIGHTY STRIDES THE DISEMBODIED DETECTIVE PASSES ABOVE AN UNSUSPECTING CITY, TRAILING WHAT-HAS-HAPPENED TO THE ABOUT-TO-BE ...
THE CAR'S MOVING TOWARD A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE! AND--I CAN HEAR VOICES--THREATENING JIM CORRIGAN!


JIM--MY PHYSICAL SELF--ABOUT TO BE GUNNED DOWN--BY THE VERY SAME MEN WHO HURLED THAT BOMB!
INTO THAT DANK CELLAR SLIPS THE SPECTRE-- JUST AS FINGERS TIGHTEN ON READY TRIGGERS..

WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE PART 2

A HAIL OF LEADEN LIGHTNING SPEEDS TOWARD THE MOMENTARILY HELPLESS DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN AS TOMMY-GUNS AND REVOLVERS ROAR AND CHATTER! BUT SLIDING OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE WALL AND STRETCHING WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT ITSELF, THE SPECTRE SLIPS FROM THE ASTRAL INTO THE PHYSICAL PLANE--HURLING HIMSELF LIKE A LIVING BARRIER IN FRONT OF THE SEEMINGLY DOOMED MEN!


NOT FOR TWENTY YEARS HAS ANY-ONE ON EARTH SEEN THIS DREAD FIGURE! HE EXISTS ONLY AS LEGEND--UNTIL THIS MOMENT WHEN HE ERUPTS INTO ACTION BEFORE INCREDULOUS MOBSTERS...
HE'S SWALLOWIN' OUR BULLETS! WHAT KIND OF HOCUS-POCUS IS THIS?
I REMEMBER MY OLDER BROTHER TALKIN' ABOUT SOMEBODY LIKE HIM— CALLED THE SPECTRE!
HIS CAPE OPENS WIDE AS THE MAN OF DARKNESS MOVES HIS ARMS OUTWARD— AND THE TITANIC TEMPEST CREATED BY THAT ASTRAL ACTION SENDS THE LEADEN HAIL BACK AT THOSE WHO GAVE IT BIRTH...
LET'S BEAT IT OUTTA HERE--WHILE WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE!
THEN--THROUGH THE ASTRAL MANTLE OF THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN LEAPS HIS PHYSICAL SELF...
ROCKS--HOLD IT! I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU--
ABOUT TWENTY YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT, I'D SAY!
SOK
AS ONE, TUFFY COOPER AND HIS GANG TURN THEIR GUNS ON THE DETECTIVE CAPTAIN...
GET CORRIGAN! FORGET THE SPECTRE!
NO MAN EVER FORGETS ME--ONCE HE SAMPLES THE POWERS I POSSESS! OBSERVE!

GUN BARRELS--LENGTHEN--WRAP TIGHT ABOUT THEIR BODIES!
WHEW! IT SURE IS GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK IN ACTION AGAIN! WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT--
LATER--RIGHT NOW I'M GOING INTO MY OLD-TIME DISAPPEARING ACT!
IN A SMALL OFFICE IN THE WAREHOUSE, SEVERAL CHESTS CONTAINING THE STOLEN MONEY ARE TURNED OVER TO MILLICENT OLCOTT...
I'LL ARRANGE FOR A POLICE ESCORT TO THE BANK, MILLICENT!
THANK YOU, JIM--AND YOU TOO, STEFAN! AND THE SPECTRE--WHEREVER HE'S GONE--
THAT NIGHT, IN JIM CORRIGAN'S APARTMENT...
NOW THAT WE HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK--WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS? WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER APPEAR BEFORE TODAY?
I COULDN'T! I WAS IMPRISONED IN YOUR BODY BY SOME FORCE I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BUT TO LEARN THE REASON FOR MY CONFINEMENT SHALL BE MY NEXT TASK--EVEN WHILE YOU SET ABOUT ROUNDING UP THE REST OF THE PARKER AND COOPER GANGS! THEY'LL PROBABLY SELECT NEW BOSSES NOW THAT ROCKS AND TUFFY ARE IN JAIL!
SOMEWHERE--SOME PLACE--THERE IS A SOURCE OF UNCANNY ENERGY THAT CONTROLS ME! I MUST FIND IT--STAMP IT OUT OF EXISTENCE!
GOOD LUCK--AND KEEP IN TOUCH! I MAY NEED YOU AGAIN, REAL SOON!

FAR ACROSS THE WORLD TRAVELS THE SPIRIT SLEUTH ON HIS SEARCH! HE FIRST VISITS A SOUL HOUSE DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF ECUADOR...
THERE ARE MANY PLACES ON EARTH WHERE THE ASTRAL FORCES ARE GREATEST! HERE IN THIS SOUL HOUSE THEY ARE VERY STRONG -- YET THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY IMPRISONMENT!
TO GALLOWS HILL IN SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE WITCHES ONCE WERE HANGED...
THE SPIRITS THRONG TO THIS SPOT -- BUT NONE OF THEM HAS THE POWER TO CONFINE ME!
THE TEMPLES OF THE GODS OF EGYPT, LONG FORGOTTEN BY THE WORLD YET POTENT IN THE ASTRAL WORLD, ARE NEXT TO KNOW HIS SPIRIT PRESENCE...
NOR IS THIS THE SOURCE OF MY PROBLEM!
TO THE HEIGHTS OF MOUNT PARNASSUS, TO THE RUINS OF THE GREAT TEMPLE TO APOLLO WHERE THE DELPHIC ORACLE SPOKE HER PROPHECIES...
NOTHING POTENT IN THIS ANCIENT PILE OF STONES!
STONEHENGE IS THE LAST TO KNOW HIS OCCULT PERSONALITY. THESE OLD MENHIRS HAVE BEEN USED BY A PRE-HISTORIC RACE AND BY THE DRUIDS FOR THEIR RITES, YET DISAPPOINTMENT STIRS ONCE AGAIN IN THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE...
ANOTHER FAILURE IN MY HUNT FOR THE IMPRISONING ENERGY!

MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, A FOREST HIDE-OUT USED BY THE ADIRONDACK MOB FOR SECRET CONFERENCES IS THE OBJECT OF JIM CORRIGAN'S INTENSE SCRUTINY...

I'VE TRACKED WHAT'S LEFT OF THE PARKER AND COOPER GANGS TO THIS MEETING PLACE! GOT TO MOVE IN A LITTLE CLOSER--SEE IF ANYONE'S IN THERE...

UNDERFOOT A TWIG SNAPS LOUDLY IN THE STILLNESS OF THE WOODS...

SNAP

AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THAT GIVEAWAY SOUND, A HARD-FACED MOBSTER SLIDES OUT OF THE FOREST SHADOWS...

GET 'EM UP, CORRIGAN! WE HEARD HOW YOU CAUGHT ROCKS AND TUFFY--AND WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT SHOW UP HERE! START WALKING!

THE BOYS INSIDE ARE WAITIN' TO PAY YOU OFF--UNDERWORLD STYLE!

WHERE THE WIND WHIPS MUSICALLY THROUGH THE GIANT STONES OF STONE-HENGE, THE SPIRIT SLEUTH GOES RIGID WITH ALARM...

I SENSE PERIL TO MY PHYSICAL SELF! I MUST DELAY MY QUEST--TO SAVE HIM FROM THE RESULTS OF HIS!

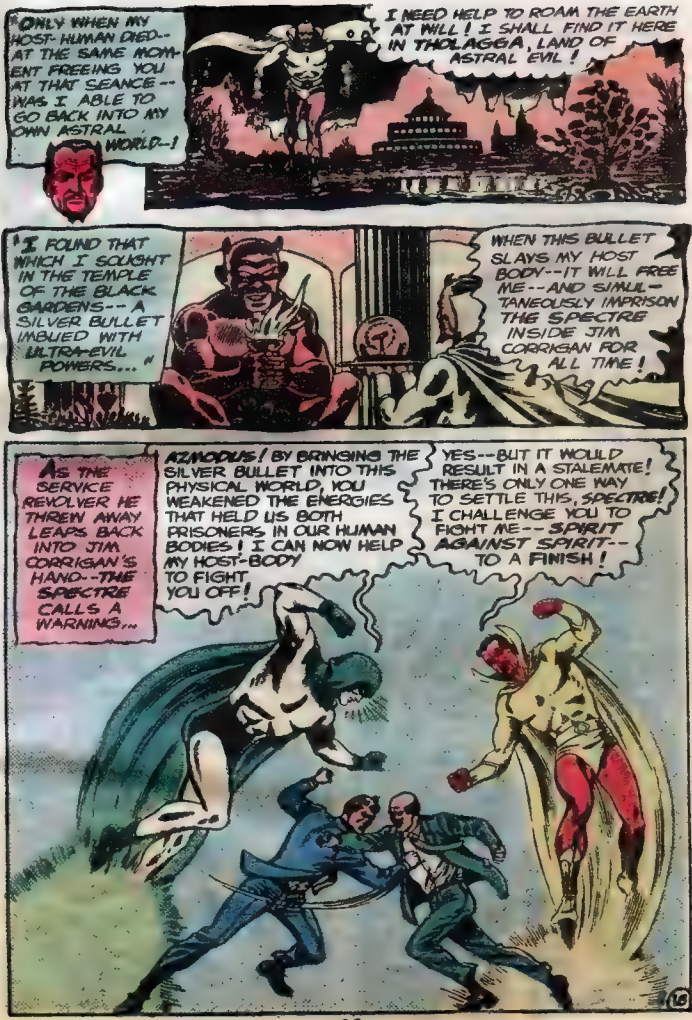
ALONG THE ASTRAL PLANE--IN THAT SPIRIT DIMENSION WHERE THERE IS NO TIME OR SPACE NOR LIFE AS WE KNOW IT--THE SPECTRE MOVES WITH THE EERIE SPEED WHICH ANNIHILATES DISTANCE...

A BURST OF ASTRAL ENERGY EXPLODES INSIDE THE ADIRONDACK HUNTING LODGE! OUT OF IT SURGES THE AWESOME SPIRIT SHAPE OF THE GRIM GUARDIAN...
HEY-- WHO HE?
I--AM--THE SPECTRE! RETURNING TO MY OLD HAUNTS!
INSTANTLY HIS NON-PHYSICAL FORM SHOOTS SKYWARD-- TERRIBLE IN ITS WRATH-- FEARFUL IN ITS FURY-- CARRYING THE MOBSTERS IN HIS GRIP...
HEY-- HE'S LET GO OF US!
BEFORE ANY HARM CAN COME TO THEM--I SHALL BE BACK!
THERE--THIS IS HIGH ENOUGH..
IN THE FOLLOWING MOMENT A GIANT HAND SLAMS INTO THE HUNTING LODGE AND...
LEAVE THIS LAST ONE FOR ME, SPECTRE!

OKAY--PARTNER! I'VE GOT A JOB OF MY OWN TO WRAP UP!
SWOOPING UPWARD, THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE CATCHES THE FALLING GANGSTERS--JUST AS A CURIOUS PULSATION RACKS HIS BODY...
GROWING WEAK! MY ASTRAL POWERS--BEING DRAINED AWAY!
HE JUST MAKES IT BACK TO THE GROUND WITH HIS PRISONERS WHEN...
AS THE SPECTRE IS DRAWN BACK INTO HIS HOST-BODY...
SPECTRE! WHAT'S WRONG?
THE FORCE THAT KEPT ME PRISONER IN YOUR BODY--OVER-WHELMING ME AGAIN! I CAN SENSE IT NOW--AS I COULD NEVER DO BEFORE! JIM--YOU MUST HELP ME--AS I HAVE HELPED YOU!
THE MYSTIC ENERGY IS EMANATING FROM MOUNTAIN CITY--FROM A MAN NAMED PAUL NEVERS! CHECK INTO HIM, JIM... FIND OUT HIS CONNECTION WITH ME...
AFTER THE TWO UNDERWORLD GANGS ARE PLACED IN A LOCAL JAIL, JIM CORRIGAN FLIES TO MOUNTAIN CITY...
I CHECKED INTO THIS PAUL NEVERS THROUGH THE POLICE TELETYPE SYSTEM. HE'S GOT A REP AS A SMALL-TIME CROOK--WHO SUDDENLY STARTED TO PULL OFF SPECTACULAR CRIMES!
15

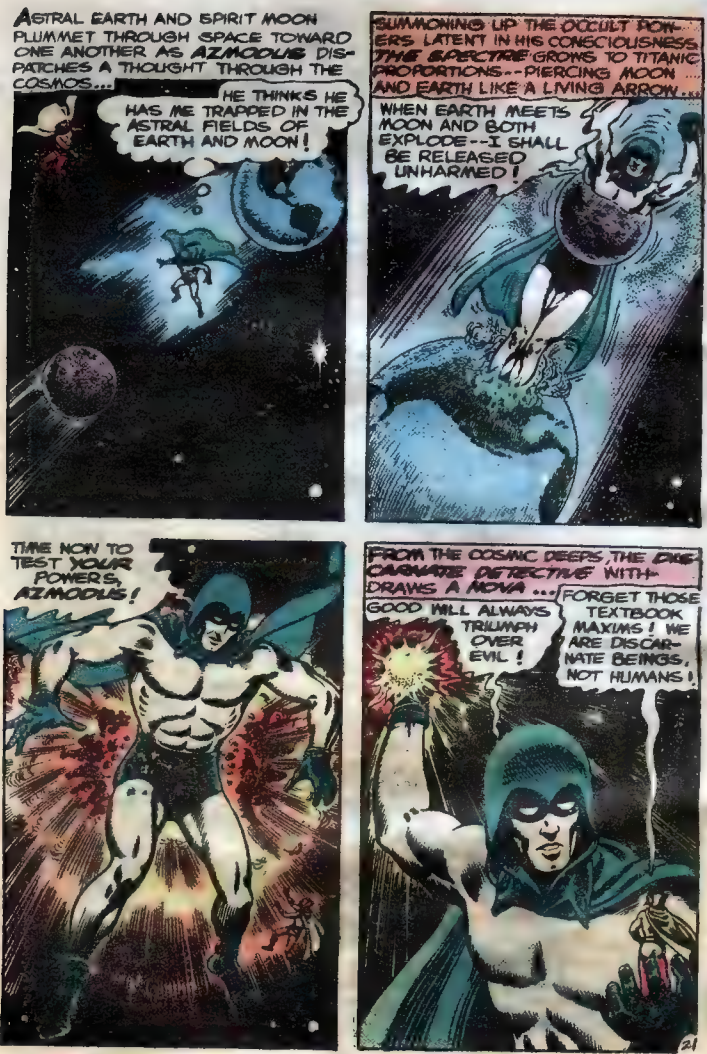
EVER SINCE THE SPECTRE WAS FORCED BACK INTO MY BODY--NEVERS HAS BEEN ROBBING AND LOOTING LIKE A DEMON! HIS POWERS ARE SUPER-NORMAL -- PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THAT STRANGE ENERGY INSIDE HIS BODY!
IN MOUNTAIN CITY, AN AIRPORT TAXI IS CARRYING THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHEN...
STOP, THIEF!
BAM! BAM!
THE BANK GUARD'S BULLETS--- BOUNCING OFF THAT BANDIT!
I'LL BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR YOUR HANDLE IS -- PAUL NEVERS!
TAXI 12
YOU WIN YOUR BET-- BUT LOSE YOUR FOOLHARDY ATTEMPT TO STOP ME!
A SPIRIT VOICE WHISPERS TO JIM CORRIGAN AS HE TAKES AFTER HIS FOE...
AFTER HIM, JIM--BUT BE CAREFUL! HE'S BEING HELPED BY AN ASTRAL BEING LIKE MYSELF! SOMEONE WITH -- FANTASTIC POWERS!

ON THE RUN, JIM YANKS OUT HIS SERVICE REVOLVER...
WHAT AM I DOING? I'VE NEVER GUNNED DOWN AN UNARMED MAN IN COLD BLOOD!
HE SLIDES TO A HALT TO TAKE CAREFUL AIM...
JUST STANDING THERE--AS IF HE WANTS ME TO SHOOT HIM! AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE--I SENSE A SPIRIT HAND GRIPPING MY ARM--FORCING ME TO SHOOT!
FIGHTING DESPERATELY--DETERMINED TO AVOID SHOOTING AT ALL COSTS--JIM CORRIGAN FIGHTS A LONELY, SAVAGE BATTLE WITH THE UNKNOWN POWERS THAT HAUNT HIM...
NO, I MUST NOT! I SHALL NOT! I HAVE A TERRIBLE FEELING THAT IF I SHOOT HIM--I'D BE DOOMING THE SPECTRE AND UNLEASHING A TERRIBLE EVIL ON THE WORLD!
SUDDENLY, THE SPECTRE LOOMS UP--HURLING HIS THOUGHTS ACROSS THE GAP BETWEEN HIS PHYSICAL SELF AND PAUL NEVERS...
WHEW! I MANAGED TO THROW MY GUN AWAY...
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
I AM AZMODUS! TWENTY YEARS AGO I LEFT THE WORLD OF MY ASTRAL PLANE TO COME TO EARTH! THIS WAS WHEN YOU FOUND YOURSELF TRAPPED, UNABLE TO LEAVE THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN!
BEFORE THE STUPEFIED EYES OF JIM CORRIGAN AND THE SPECTRE, THE FORM OF AZMODUS, DREAD DEMON OF ULTIMATE EVIL, TAKES SHAPE AND FORM...
IT WAS MY INTENTION TO ROAM EARTH AS YOU DO, SPECTRE--BUT BENT ON DOING EVIL INSTEAD OF GOOD, FOR SUCH IS MY NATURE!
BUT WHEN I ENTERED A HUMAN BODY TWENTY YEARS AGO, I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED THERE, AS YOU WERE TRAPPED IN JIM CORRIGAN! I COULD NOT BREAK FREE! I REALIZED EARTH COULD NOT SUPPORT TWO ASTRAL BEINGS SUCH AS WE, FOR OUR ASTRAL ENERGIES CANCEL OUT EACH OTHER, NEUTRALIZING THEM!

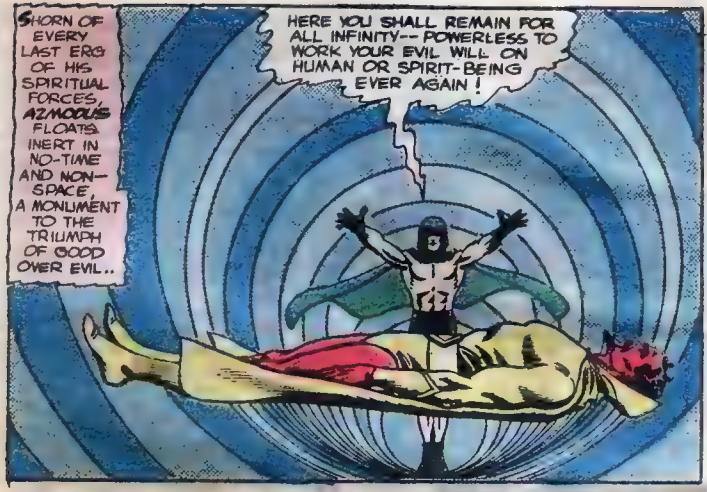

ONLY WHEN MY HOST-HUMAN DIED--AT THE SAME MOMENT FREEING YOU AT THAT SEANCE--WAS I ABLE TO GO BACK INTO MY OWN ASTRAL WORLD--!
I NEED HELP TO ROAM THE EARTH AT WILL! I SHALL FIND IT HERE IN THOLAGGA, LAND OF ASTRAL EVIL!
"I FOUND THAT WHICH I SOUGHT IN THE TEMPLE OF THE BLACK GARDENS--A SILVER BULLET IMBUED WITH ULTRA-EVIL POWERS..."
WHEN THIS BULLET SLAYS MY HOST BODY--IT WILL FREE ME--AND SIMULTANEOUSLY IMPRISON THE SPECTRE INSIDE JIM CORRIGAN FOR ALL TIME!
AS THE SERVICE REVOLVER HE THREW AWAY LEAPS BACK INTO JIM CORRIGAN'S HAND--THE SPECTRE CALLS A WARNING...
AZMODUS! BY BRINGING THE SILVER BULLET INTO THIS PHYSICAL WORLD, YOU WEAKENED THE ENERGIES THAT HELD US BOTH PRISONERS IN OUR HUMAN BODIES! I CAN NOW HELP MY HOST-BODY TO FIGHT YOU OFF!
YES--BUT IT WOULD RESULT IN A STALEMATE! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THIS, SPECTRE! I CHALLENGE YOU TO FIGHT ME--SPIRIT AGAINST SPIRIT--TO A FINISH!
16

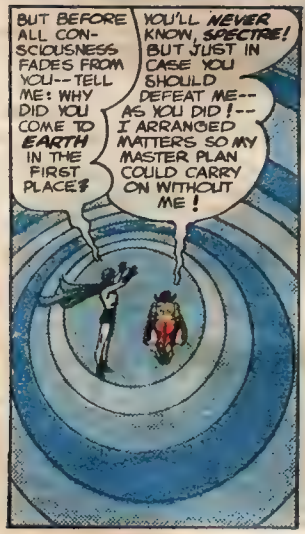
AGAINST A BACK-DROP OF INTER-PLANETARY SPACE, THE SPECTRAL WAR BEGINS! AZMODUS SNARES A FLAMING METEOR IN HIS HAND...
I'LL MAKE THIS A BLAZING START--AND FINISH--SPECTRE! I'M ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH MY WORK ON EARTH!
AS THE METEOR, BLAZING AND ROARING LIKE AN INCANDESCENT INFERNO--STREAKS TOWARD THE DISEMBODIED DETECTIVE...
NO, AZMODUS! YOU CAN'T FINISH ME OFF THAT EASILY! OUR POWERS ARE TOO SIMILAR--TOO CLOSELY MATCHED!
WITH A HOWL OF FURY, AZMODUS TURNS TO THE ELECTRICAL CURTAIN OF THE AURORA BOREALIS--WHIPPING IT LIKE A CONJURER'S CAPE ABOUT HIS OPPONENT...
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT! FOR COUNTLESS AGES I HAVE STUDIED THE ASTRAL POWERS IN THE WORLD OF THOLAGGA! MY POWERS ARE LIMITLESS!
SUMMONING UP HIS OWN ASTRAL ABILITIES, THE SPECTRE EXPLODES THAT AWESOME CURTAIN BACK AT AZMODUS IN BOLTS OF SPECTRAL FURY...
YOUR POWERS MAY BE BEYOND THE IMAGINATION--BUT MINE ARE ENOUGH TO STAGGER IT!
19.

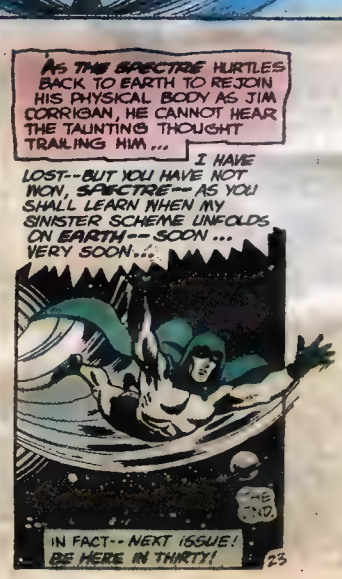
BY MUTUAL CONSENT, THE SPIRIT BEINGS SLIP INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE WHERE--
--AND HE WHO REMAINS THE STRONGER WILL BE THE VICTOR!
ONE MUST WEAKEN THE OTHER, SPECTRE! ONLY IN THAT MANNER WILL ONE OF US BE EXHAUSTED OF POWER--
--ALIEN WOOD AND STRANGE STONE MEET AND SHATTER IN A WILD FLAILING AS THE DARK DUELISTS SLUG IT OUT WITH SAVAGE INTENSITY!
THEY DROP THEIR SHATTERED WEAPONS AND DIVE INTO THE LIMPID DEPTHS OF AN ASTRAL OCEAN WHERE THE VERY WATERS OBEY THEIR COMMANDS...
AT MY BIDDING, THAT UNDERSEA WHIRLPOOL WILL GRIP AND HOLD YOU WITH ITS ASTRAL POWERS--FOR ALL ETERNITY!
NOT AS LONG AS I CAN COUNTER WITH A COMMAND OF MY OWN!
INSTANTLY, THE SANDS GRIP THEMSELVES ABOUT THE FEET OF AZMODUS, PULLING HIM DOWN...
WHAT YOU CAN DO--I CAN UNDO!
ONCE AGAIN THEY ABANDON THEIR BATTLEGROUND FOR A NEW ONE, ZOOMING OUT INTO ASTRAL SPACE--WHERE THEY ENLARGE THEMSELVES A MILLION-FOLD AS THEY EACH GRAB A COMET BY ITS TENUOUS TAIL AND...
I'LL BATTER YOU WITH SO MANY WEAPONS, YOUR ENERGIES WILL SOON BE EXHAUSTED!
YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED! NEVER! HAVING FOUND THE CAUSE OF MY LONG IMPRISONMENT I DON'T INTEND TO GO INTO LIMBO AGAIN!
20


ASTRAL EARTH AND SPIRIT MOON PLUMMET THROUGH SPACE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AS AZMODUS DISPATCHES A THOUGHT THROUGH THE COSMOS...
HE THINKS HE HAS ME TRAPPED IN THE ASTRAL FIELDS OF EARTH AND MOON!
SUMMONING UP THE OCCULT POWERS LATENT IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS, THE SPECTRE GROWS TO TITANIC PROPORTIONS--PIERCING MOON AND EARTH LIKE A LIVING ARROW...
WHEN EARTH MEETS MOON AND BOTH EXPLODE--I SHALL BE RELEASED UNHARMED!
TIME NOW TO TEST YOUR POWERS, AZMODUS!
FROM THE COSMIC DEEPS, THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE WITH-DRAWS A NOVA...
GOOD WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!
FORGET THOSE TEXTBOOK MAXIMS! WE ARE DISCARNATE BEINGS, NOT HUMANS!
21

THE STAR EXPLODES! HEAT THAT WOULD TURN SOLID STEEL TO INCANDESCENT POWDER ERUPTS HARMLESSLY ABOUT THOSE ASTRAL FORMS...
ON EARTH --ON THAT PHYSICAL PLANE WHERE THE HARD-FISTED DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN CORRIGAN HAS BEEN BATTLING HIS FOE...
FOR AN INSTANT--AS HIS HOST BODY LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS--AIMOOUS HIMSELF GROWS WEAK! AND IN THAT VERY MOMENT--THE SPECTRE STRIKES...
SOK!
THE TINY THREAD OF CONSCIOUSNESS THAT CONNECTS ME WITH JIM CORRIGAN TELLS ME THAT HE IS ON THE VERGE OF WINNING HIS BATTLE AGAINST PAUL NEVERS!
NOW--AT LAST--I CAN SUBDUE HIM BY CAUSING HIS POWERS TO SEEP AWAY!
UPWARD AND OUTWARD SHOOTS THE GRIM GUARDIAN--PAST STARS AND PLANETS TO THE DEEPS BETWEEN THE GALAXIES--HURTLING TOWARD THE RIM OF THE ASTRAL UNIVERSE.
ONCE THAT POWER LEAVES HIS ASTRAL FORM, IT CAN NEVER RETURN!
AT THE VERY END OF TIME, WHERE SPACE CURVES BACK UPON ITSELF THE SPECTRE GRAPPLES WITH HIS ADVERSARY...
MY ASTRAL POWERS ARE LEAVING ME! YOU--HAVE--WON!
YOU HAVE BEEN RENDERED HELPLESS--INERT!!


SHORN OF EVERY LAST ERG OF HIS SPIRITUAL FORCES, AZMODUS FLOATS INERT IN NO-TIME AND NON-SPACE, A MONUMENT TO THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL..
HERE YOU SHALL REMAIN FOR ALL INFINITY-- POWERLESS TO WORK YOUR EVIL WILL ON HUMAN OR SPIRIT-BEING EVER AGAIN!


BUT BEFORE ALL CONSCIOUSNESS FADES FROM YOU--TELL ME: WHY DID YOU COME TO EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, SPECTRE! BUT JUST IN CASE YOU SHOULD DEFEAT ME-- AS YOU DID!-- I ARRANGED MATTERS SO MY MASTER PLAN COULD CARRY ON WITHOUT ME!


AS THE SPECTRE HURTLES BACK TO EARTH TO REJOIN HIS PHYSICAL BODY AS JIM CORRIGAN, HE CANNOT HEAR THE TAUNTING THOUGHT TRAILING HIM...
I HAVE LOST--BUT YOU HAVE NOT WON, SPECTRE-- AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN MY SINISTER SCHEME UNFOLDS ON EARTH-- SOON... VERY SOON...
THE END
IN FACT-- NEXT ISSUE! BE HERE IN THIRTY!
23

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES:

An important part of the new ADVENTURE COMICS DIGEST series is an ambitious plan of co-editor Carl Gafford: the complete reprinting of the sought-after early adventures of the Legion of Super-Heroes, in chronological order. The Legion's first stories are probably the most sought-after and difficult to collect DC comics published since the Golden Age both because of the group's tremendous popularity and because of the many different comics the stories appeared in. And as one of DC's premier Legion fans (having completed my collection back before they even began appearing in SUPERBOY & THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES) and as the current writer of the series, I was asked by Carl to do some commentary on the reprints.

This issue's two selections are the first two Legion stories published and Carl plans to move ahead in order next month with Supergirl's first meeting with the Legion and Luthor's first battle with a Legionnaire. But when "The Legion Of Super-Heroes" was first published in ADVENTURE COMICS #247, neither writer Otto Binder nor artist Al Plastino ever imagined the characters would return.

Otto Binder was a long-time science fiction writer who had worked on many comics. He wrote a couple more stories featuring the Legion after this one, but only one episode of their series almost five years after it began appearing regularly in ADVENTURE COMICS. Al Plastino, the artist of that first story, was one of the big three Superman artists of the time (with Swan and Boring) but somehow never managed to do another story with the Legionnaires.

Interesting curiosities about that first story are, of course: Lightning Lad debuting as Lightning Boy, Cosmic Boy's power coming from "magnetic eyes", the never to be seen again original costumes of all three characters, and the Legion headquarters being placed in Smallville. Actually, I suspect it's not inaccurate to describe Legion headquarters as being both in Smallville and Metropolis—as the smaller town has probably been absorbed into the larger as a neighborhood by 2959 A.D.

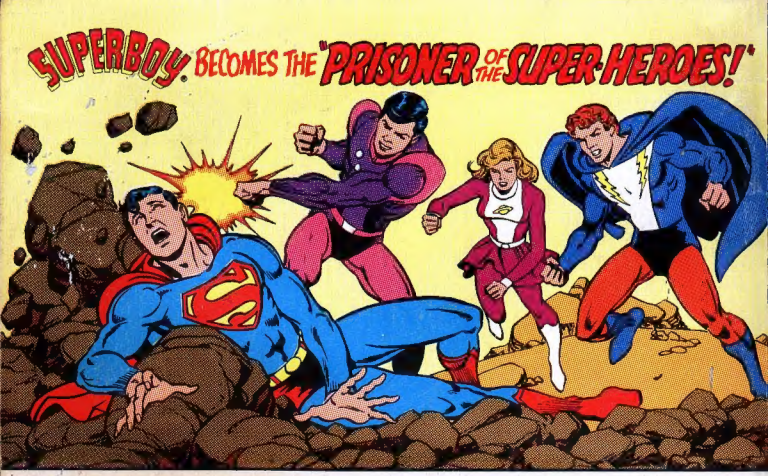
Most interesting (besides the story itself) are the shadowy figures of other Legionnaires... which is one of several historical clues that have led some Legion fans to adopt the theory that Superboy was actually inducted into the Legion *after* Supergirl. That would identify the other figures as Triplicate Girl, Phantom Girl, Chameleon Boy, Colossal Boy, the original Invisible Kid and Brainiac Five.

The second story, "Prisoner Of The Super-Heroes", came twenty months after the first, possibly in response to sales of the Legion's debut. As you can see, the characters reappeared in the uniforms which we came to know as theirs for many years, courtesy of George Papp who illustrated many Superboy stories and went on to draw the Legion a few times. We have never successfully identified the writer of this story.

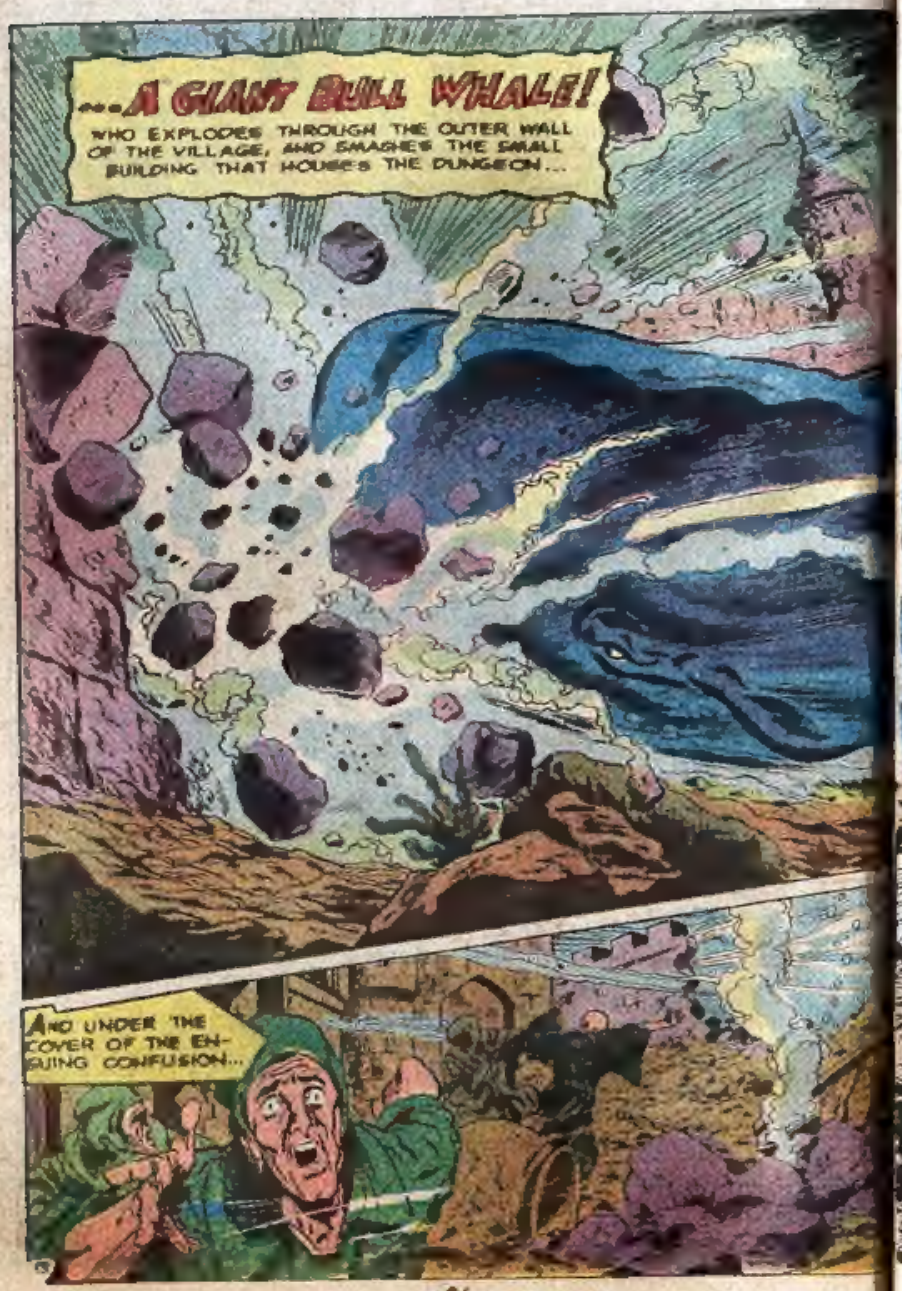
The strangest curiosity of this story is the Element Sigellian, which seems to be deadly to people of many races (since as we now know, Lightning Lad, Saturn Girl and Cosmic Boy all came from different planets). Perhaps it's a deadly poison of some sort, but in any case it's never been seen again.

As space permits, I'll be back from time to time to keep up a running commentary of the Legion reprints. I hope you enjoy them, and I hope you'll give the new stories in the Legion's own comic a try too.

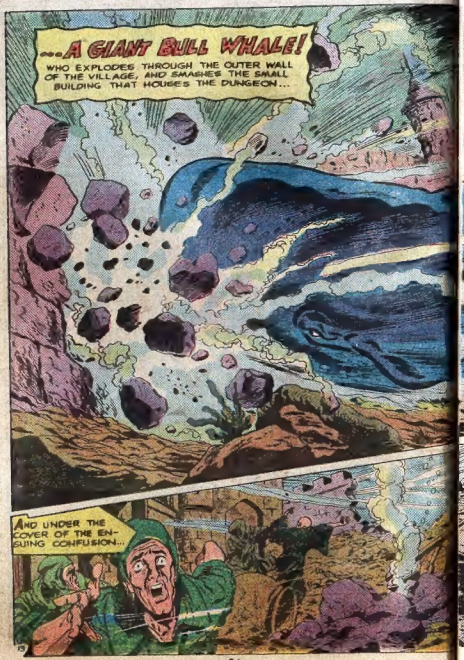
—Paul Levitz


SUPERBOY BECOMES THE "PRISONER OF THE SUPER-HEROES!"

100 PAGES OF NON-STOP ACTION AND SUSPENSE!
THE SPECTRE WALKS THE EARTH...
BLACK CANARY PATROLS THE CITY...
THE SANDMAN HUNTS THE ROOFTOPS...
AQUAMAN SEARCHES THE SEVEN SEAS!


...A GIANT BULL WHALE!
WHO EXPLODES THROUGH THE OUTER WALL OF THE VILLAGE, AND SMASHES THE SMALL BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE DUNGEON...
AND UNDER THE COVER OF THE ENSUING CONFUSION...

THAT DID IT! WE'RE FREE!
AQUALAD WAS WORSE OFF THAN I THOUGHT! HE'S PASSED OUT!
DON'T SEE MERA ANYWHERE! NO TIME TO LOOK FOR HER NOW! GOT TO GET AQUALAD BACK TO ATLANTIS FAST! HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION! I'LL BE BACK, MERA... I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU!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